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**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**  
**DZONGKHAG ADMINISTRATION**  
**Ngoedrup-Tse Dzong: Chhukha**



The  
**Ngoedrup-Tse**  
 Bi-Annual Newsletter

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### A Note from Dzongdag

Within the last two years of my association with the Chhukha Dzongkhag as the Dzongdag, I have had several opportunities to traverse through different Gewogs, interact with diverse group of people, and listen to their personal stories and aspirations they have for themselves and the nation. These are precious moments that, I feel comes only once in our career, and that too if we happen to serve in Dzongkhags and Gewogs! Many of my colleagues echo similar feelings on their return from field visits.

On my part, I had a great privilege to sensitize people on their rights and responsibilities as a citizen of this great nation with particular emphasis on their constitutional obligation to uphold and strengthen peace and security of the country and our unique Bhutanese values besides other policies, plans and programs of different governmental agencies.

Every day is a new beginning with opportunities and challenges that calls for learning, unlearning and relearning with ensuing diagnostic assessment and adjustments in plans and programs at different levels. No matter whether one is capable of doing it today or parking it for another good day, I am a fervent believer that we need to embark on with a clear sense of purpose and right frame of mindset for a better tomorrow under the aegis of overarching 12th FYP concept of Coordination, Cooperation and Collaboration promulgated by Gross National Happiness Commission.

While it's not prudent to capture, reflect and relish each work and every serious conversation that takes place within the Dzongkhag, it behooves us well to record a few important events that took place in between January and June, 2019 and, share some of our small wins with wider audiences for constructive feedbacks.

We hope Ngoedrup-Tse Newsletter is one way to do it, and I am happy to be a part of its team; they deserve our sincere appreciation for the time and effort they have put in to bring out this Issue. We hope that our readers will find the materials in this issue informative and wish everyone, a happy reading!

### HIGHLIGHTS

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### His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo Birth Anniversary Celebration



Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration celebrated the 39th Birth Anniversary of our beloved Druk Gyalpo at Chhukha Central School. The day started with lighting of thousand butter lamps and offering of prayers at Kuenray of Ngoedrup-Tse Dzong at 7.30 am led by Venerable Lam Neten, Dasho Dzongdag, Dasho Drangpon, Dzongrab, regional and sector heads for His Majesty's good health and long life.

The Chief Guest for the memorable day was Dasho Dzongdag. More than thousand spectators comprising of students and teachers from six schools, business community and people of Bjabcho, Geling and Chapcha Gewogs gathered to take part in the event. In addition, Honourable MP Tshewang Lhamo, Officials from RBP, Tashigathsel and Dantak, Chapcha joined the celebration. The celebration began with chipdrel and marchang ceremony followed by march-past and zhabten. Thereafter the students, teachers and business communities put up different cultural items. To make the day memorable the Dzongkhag administration awarded the Certificate of Appreciation to Metakha Gewog for achieving 100% pour-flush toilet construction among the 11 Gewogs. The day ended with Tashi Lebey and the cleaning campaign on the theme 'Nation Building through Cleanliness.'

### Honourable Prime Minister Visits Chhukha

After winning the third historic National Parliament Election, 2018, the Honourable Prime Minister made his maiden visit to Chhukha Dzongkhag on December 30, 2018 to attend the closing ceremony of Rural Urban Friendship Campaign at Darla Middle Secondary School. More than 50 students from different Dzongkhags took part in the camp.



## Sector Retreat Program—Policy Dialogue for Effective Change

The Sector Retreat Program - Policy Dialogue for Effective Change was organized at Tenzingling Resort, Paro from June 17-18, 2019. It was initiated as per the recommendation of the 5th Dzongkhag Monthly Management Meeting and was also in pursuant to the training workshop organized in Haa Dzongkhag by HELVETAS Bhutan and DLG, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs. A total of 33 staff of Chhukha Dzongkhag including



Dasha Dzongdag, Dzongrab, Drungpa, 19 Sector Heads, 3 Principals, 3 Health Staff, 3 RNR Staff and selected GAOs took part in the first of its kind program.

The Program intended to create platform for the participants to discuss freely and reflect on their sector’s mind maps, road maps and then redefine their sector’s conceptual frameworks in line with the 12th FYP. In addition, it aimed at discussion of common coordination, monitoring and public service delivery issues and plan collaboratively for the effective system to address those pertaining issues. Enhancing good governance in our Dzongkhag was the expected core outcome of the retreat.



The first day witnessed the discussion on Chhukha Dzongkhag vision, strategies and its priorities to achieve in the 12th FYP by Dasha Dzongdag. Dasha also presented on how to transform Chhukha Dzongkhag through creativity and innovation for wellbeing of the people. From the deliberation, the floor established the understanding of having a clear vision and mission, set objectives and innovative strategies to stand out as the high performing sector of the government.

A lack of coordination and monitoring system is one of the national issues reflected in the 12th FYP documents. To streamline such obstacles and develop an effective system in our Dzongkhag, Drungkhag and Gewog, the participants discussed in depth the related issues and challenges spearheaded by Dasha Drungpa, Phuentshogling. After series of group dialogue, the floor saw the presentation of three levels of coordination and monitoring system. Use of ICT was seen as an effective strategy for such implementation. Before fully institutionalizing the proposed plans, the meeting directed the District Planning Officer and ICTO to workout properly and present it in the Dzongkhag monthly coordination meeting. How to deliver the public services effectively with turnaround time was also shared to the floor by different sectors .



One of the expected outputs of the retreat was the strategy documents in place - Sector Strategic Road Map. Accordingly, the presentation on the sector strategic road map was made by the different sectors. This session revealed some of the implementation stumbling blocks and requirement of appropriate strategies adoption to accomplish the Dzongkhag Sector Key Result Areas of the 12th FYP.

Finally, the three-day retreat was summed up into the four developmental priorities to transform Chhukha Dzongkhag:

- Innovative RNR programs and ecotourism for rural economic growth and youth employment.

- 100% coverage of rural health and sanitation development.
- Chhukha beautification project initiative and
- Optimal use of ICT for effective monitoring and reporting system.

- Sherub Dorji, Sr. Dzongrab

## A Road to Good Governance - LG Capacity Building



Local government capacity is critical for effective planning and implementation of local developmental priorities. It is a proven road to the health of good governance and democracy at the grass roots level. The need for an appropriate capacity building or increase in qualification criteria for local government leaders is essential now more than ever, in the light of more importance placed on decentralization of both fiscal and administrative power to the Local Government.

In view of this, several trainings on capacity building for LG functionaries of Chhukha Dzongkhag were held from April - May, 2019 at Gedu and Phuentshogling.

A total of 101 local government functionaries comprising of Gups, Mangmis, Tshogpas, Geydrungs and Gewog Administrative Officers of the 11 Gewogs participated in the programs. A relevant and need based training programs were designed and imparted to the participants which includes:

- Planning and Prioritization.
- Driglam Namzha.
- Disaster Risk Management and Prevention.

- ESACO and important clauses of Land Act of Bhutan.
- Important Audit plans and policies.
- Criminal offences, Law and Order and Gewog Tshogdey Proceedings.

A total of Nu.0.45 million was spent for the training programs. Department of Local Governance, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs funded the program. The facilitators of government recommended, 2 Private Institutes and Royal Bhutan Police helped trained the participants.

The low cost with high impact and rapid execution trainings in nature compared to the trainings provided for lucky few at national levels was the positive feedbacks received from the participants.

- Tshewang Dorji, DT Secretary

## National Day Celebration in Gedu



The 111<sup>th</sup> National day was celebrated at Gedu Moelam Chenmo Ground on 17th December, 2018 with utmost enjoyment in the presence Chief Guest, Dasho Dzongdag, Dasho Dzongrab, Sr. civil servants, students, business communities and people of Chhukha Dzongkhag



All have joined together to pay heartfelt tribute to our great Kings for the glorious reign. Many people were part of fun events and winners were awarded attractive prizes.



### International Women's Day Celebration

The International Women's Day 2019 was observed at Logchina Gewog Centre. "Think Equal, Build Smart, and Innovate for Change" was the theme of the celebration. It was organized by the Dzongkhag Legal Office in collaboration with the Dzongkhag Health Office and volunteers from RENEW. Around 150 community members, local leaders and civil servants from Logchina Gewog took part in the day-long program. The Gup of Logchina attended the occasion as the Chief Guest .



To mark the day, the RENEW representatives shared about the importance of role of women in society and also advocated on the ills of domestic violence. The Dzongkhag Legal Officer



in his capacity as the GCFP-NCWC focal point highlighted issues from the legal perspective and the support systems in place for the victims of Domestic Violence (DV) and Violence against Women (VAW). The Dzongkhag Health Officer shared on the various health issues related to women, the measures that can be taken to curb such issues and highlighted the importance of visiting nearest health facilities at the earliest if women face such health issues.

- Sonam R.Chophel, Legal Officer

### Local Solution to Tackle Waste Issues



A group formed by the LG functionaries, School Principals and Teachers have come together to keep the places between Chhuzom to Bunagu clean. They call themselves Chapcha. Waste Management Team, abbreviated as "CWMT". The team with the slogan 'Go Green' are also joined by volunteer Teachers, Dessups, Youths and Chiwog Tshogpas of Chapcha Gewog.

The idea to form CWMT was conceived when Chhukha Dzongdag visited Chapcha in April 2018 to discuss the adoption of Thimphu-Phuentsholing highway by respective agencies to solve the highway waste issues.

Since then, CWMT have carried out series of waste management initiatives which included mass cleaning, waste management awareness and advocacy programmes. Making the shopkeeper and hoteliers to install dustbins and creating awareness to the drivers and passengers on the highway were some other initiatives. Personal pledges made by the CWMT members and volunteers to not use plastic at their individual homes is another significant aspect of this local initiative.

The team looks to a busy future with their plans to make households to segregate waste, setup waste collection and drop centres and conduct

advocacy and consultation meeting with the people. They are also working to fence the sacred Damchu Drupchu which is being polluted as it becomes more popular among the highway commuters to stop there and in turn leaving behind loads of wastes. Installing additional signages to deter people from throwing wastes on the highway will also take place.

This community-based organization (CBO) would be one unique initiative to control waste in the two most important areas: highways and the villages and most importantly, it is a local solution driven by a wise intention to "Go Green" not only in Chapcha but across the entire country.

- Thukten Tenzin, Teacher, Chapcha MSS

### **Geling Gewog Popular for Dairy and Forest Products**

Geling is one of the remotest Gewog under Chhukha Dzongkhag with its area stretching from the left side of Chhukha Hydro-Electric Project Dam to Kamji on the highway to Phuentsholing. It has an area of 247 sq. km with the population of 1,435 people. There are 177 registered households under five Chiwogs. The Gewog has three outreach clinics and one Central School, Extended Class Room, ECCD centre and one NFE centre.



It is well known for rearing of livestock and sale of forest products. The major cereal crops are paddy, maize, wheat, buckwheat and millet. In the recent times, people have become more aware of the market situation and ventured into cultivation of cardamon and vegetables, which they can generate good income. Dairy products and vegetables are sold along the Thimphu - Phuntsholing highway, as can

be seen by any travellers. The road connectivity of the Chiwogs and uninhabitable geographical terrain are the main challenges of the Gewog. The monasteries like Geling and Boeb Goenpas are historic and unknown lhakhang owing to the inaccessibility. Geling Gonpa is two days walk from Gewog Centre. Chanachen Chewog where the Gewog Centre is located, has its potentiality and plan to develop into organic village with recent inauguration of 180 fts bailey bridge and road connectivity.

- Tshewang Dendup, GAO, Geling

### **National Summer Professional Development Program**

The nationwide Professional Development program on Neuroscience-based Mindfulness & Emotional Intelligence and Helping Skills was conducted in three different locations in Chhukha; Chhukha Central School, Gedu Higher Secondary School and Phuentsholing Middle Secondary School. The training comprised three days of helping skills and two days of Search



Inside Yourself (SIY) program.

The helping skills training was intended to make our teachers synchronize and align the school system to promote child friendly and child-centered school. As the psychological first aid providers in school, teachers were oriented with practical sessions on helping skills that promote student wellbeing. SIY program focuses on self-exploration and its deeper aspects in self which results in resonation of optimism in one's way of living and causing rippling effect in the society.

The program has fusion of our ancient and vibrant traditions, particularly meditation and mindfulness. However, SIY brings a contemporary, science-based, non-religious, accessible approach to the old traditions and focuses on emotional intelligences.

- Pema Kelden, Dy. CDEO

### Dovan Village in Darla Ventures into Aquaculture Farming

The Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) in Bhutan granted Nu. 0.75 million as a Small Project Grants support to develop aquaculture in Dovan village of Darla Gewog. There are 10



household with 29 people in Dovan.

The main source of income for the villagers is betel nuts and broom grass which earns about Nu. 1,000 a month. But these crops faced severe wild life depredation especially from elephant, wild boar and monkeys. It led people to leave their land fallow and most of the limited landholding of the people have turned into bushes. The ADC project was an initiative of the Darla Gewog Livestock Extension in collaboration with the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector. It allowed for the development of fishery ponds in the villages. The people of Dovan have now gained an alternate source of livelihood with less worries from the wildlife. Thanks to the support of ADC Bhutan Small Project Grants.

- Garjaman Rai, LES, Darla



### Two Decades of being a Mask Dancer

Mask dancers are integral part of any Tshechu celebration. Usually during the Tshechu, there are two groups of mask dances. One set of dance performed only by the monks and the other group of mask dance is the one performed by laymen. These group of laymen dancers takes time and effort to master the skills of performing the mask dance on such a grand public occasion like the Tshechu. They take years and years to perfect the art of mask dancing.

In Chhukha Dzongkhag, we have four mask dancers who have perfected the art of mask dancing in the last 20 years. They are Passang and Phub Rinzin from Metakha Gewog, Tandin Chungdu from Dungna and Wangchuk from Ketokha in Bongo. All of them have performed mask dances at the ChhukhaTshechu for the past 20 years! We asked three of them their past, present and the future outlook on this important aspect of our culture.

#### Phub Rinzin – 40 years, Metakha Gewog



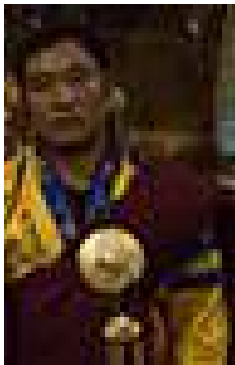
*“I used to fall ill as a young boy. But after I started being a mask dancer, I have never fallen ill. I think it is the merit of performing the mask dances that I am kept in good health. I have been privileged to perform mask dances at the coronation of His Majesty the King and also at the Royal Wedding. I am also*

*happy to have participated in performing mask dances in India”*

*Future: “I would like to impart my skills to the younger generation and continue this art of mask dancing in my family”*



### Passang – 40 Years, Metakha Gewog



*“I feel proud to be a mask dancer as it is our tradition and I have started mask dancing since I was 21 years old”*

*Future “I would like to impart skills to my younger generation”*



### Tandin Chungdu, 36 years, Dungna Gewog



*“As a young boy, I enjoyed a lot watching mask dancers. My elders told me that we can get rid of evils (lay drip) from our life. Now that I am a mask dancer, I am very happy to meet many different people.”*

*Future: “I will perform as mask dancer until my body can perform. Once I am not able to do, I will then return to village and do the farming work.”*

- Sangay Thinley, Sr. EDO



It is a new way of rural enterprise in this remote Gewog. The main source of livelihood in this Gewog so far was growing cardamom. But the cardamom is seen dying due to disease and the price in the market has fallen drastically compared to the past. The support of REDCL in dairy farming has not only improved the livelihood of Kinga Dorji but has also given a new way of making a livelihood to other people around him.

- Bikash, LES, Metakha

### First Dairy Project in Metakha

In 2017, Kinga Dorji bought two jersey cows (cross breed) from the loan of Nu. 173,000 which was sanctioned by the Rural Enterprise Development Corporation Limited (REDCL) under the agricultural loan scheme. He also used it to construct shed for his two milking cows.

This is the first dairy project in this remote Gewog facilitated by the Livestock Sector of the Gewog. It has set an example to other villagers and encouraged them to pursue backyard dairy farming.

Currently, his milking cows are giving him not less than 10 litres of milk every day and the monthly income for Kinga is around Nu. 11,700 from the sale of milk, butter and cheese.





Phuntsholing Dungkha Administration comprises of 4 Gewogs, namely, Darla, Lockchina, Phuntsholing and Sampheling. It is located in the heart of the Thromde Administration between latitude 26051'35'' and longitude 89023'14'' at an elevation of 780 feet (237.7) above sea level.

The total area of Dungkha is 428.76 Km<sup>2</sup> and has 20,332 people. There are 21 Chiwogs, 70 villages and 1765 households. There are 391 Civil Servants, 4 Gups, 4 Mangmis and 21 Tshogpas spread within the jurisdiction of Dungkha.

The Dungkha Office has 37 Civil servants responsible for providing technical backstopping, advocating government policies and directives, and delivering public services to the citizens.

It is also primarily responsible for maintaining law and order and border management in close coordination and collaboration with law enforcing agencies.

## Global Citizenship Education Workshop

In the first week of July this year, 18 teachers from Logchina Lower Secondary School, Chhukha attended the Global Citizenship Education Workshop (GCED) at FITI in Thimphu initiated by the Bhutan National Commission for UNESCO, MoE, supported by UNESCO Bangkok and funded by the Korean Funds in Trust.



Through the workshop, the teachers were equipped with GCED concept and principles, the art of teaching GCED, Integration of GCED into the curriculum and assessment of GCED which enhanced teacher's innovation and appropriate pedagogies to deliver quality GCED contents.

Throughout the four-day workshop, three domains (Cognitive, Socio-emotional and Behavioral) and nine competencies have been used as technical tools to drive the program.

The first day sessions saw resource persons delivering on background of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), introduction to Global





Citizenship Education (GCED), the principles of GCED and the GCED in context to Bhutan with its significance to Bhutanese Education system.

On the second day, there were lectures and group discussion on Event Based Learning and Design Thinking. The type of pedagogies in GCED, its concept and the ways to incline those pedagogies and blend it in the curriculum were the takeaways from the day.



The final day of the workshop saw the explanation of storytelling pedagogy and integration using Project Based Learning as its activity, assessment and reflection have been taken through. In a nutshell, it benefited the team for better execution of curriculum blended with values which so far have been covered under the content alone. A workshop resolution also has been drawn that the effective follow-up through content implementation, review and report writing will be done at the school.

- Kinley Gyeltshen, Chief DEO

## Network Monitoring Tool for Chhukha Dzongkhag

Chhukha Dzongkhag ICT office has now setup a cheap and easy tool to monitor internet network. This was possible through open source solution, Ubuntu Server and LibreNMS as a network monitoring tool. The Dzongkhag ICT Officer gained this idea when she attended fellowship workshop on 'Network Monitoring and Management' during Asian Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies 2018 (APRICOT 2018) at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Chhukha Dzongkhag Local Area Network spans to 22 community centers, one Gewog, two BHUs, Dzongkhag Municipal Office and Dzongkhag Administration office. The LAN, comprising a mix of wired and wireless access points has led to difficulty in management and monitoring of network.

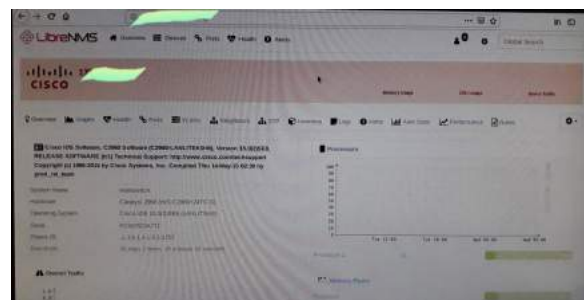
Gone are the days for the ICT officials requiring to ask how long the network has been down when users complained or be unaware of the cause of sudden slowdown of Internet because the network monitoring tool can monitor the bandwidth utilization or downtime/uptime of network.

The tool allows for automatic discovery of the devices connected to the network and generates a graph of the data usage. Such graphical interface gives an overview of network traffic which eases ICT office to know who is doing justice when it comes to Internet usage. This system also helps in maintaining detailed inventory for network devices.



This tool is expected to benefit ICT office of Chhukha in management of network more in future after setting up Dzongkhag Wide Area Network (DWAN).

- Tshering Zam, ICT Officer



*“Being a small nation makes us a smart nation, this is not out of choice but out of necessity. Technology is an indispensable tool that will be necessary to realise this aspiration.”*

- His Majesty the King

## First Eco-tourism Project in Chhukha

Bjimichu is a scenic settlement on the banks of Wangchu River and offers huge scope for development of Ecotourism in Chhukha. It is now part of the flagship programme of the Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) to do a proper feasibility study in the area for the development of rafting, homestays, ropeway across Wangchu river, development of the Bjimichu Ney site, Bird watching and Fly fishing.



Eco-tourism is mainly to benefit the communities and same applies to the project in Bjimichu. The financing and profit-sharing mechanism will be developed where the community is at the centre of development in the area.

Chhukha Dzongkhag, for that matter in any part of the country, have no dedicated place developed as an ecotourism destination. If it all goes according to plan, by the January of 2021, Bjimichu ecotourism will be open to the international visitors.

The area falls under two Gewogs of Bongo and Darla and an Eco-tourism project in the area will directly benefit the five villages of Baeyulkuenzang, Geduphu, Alay, Lamay and Sakhu of the two Gewogs. Bjimichu is also located only 18 Kms before we reach Lhamoyzingkha (Kalikhola) in Dagana Dzongkhag. Which means Lhamoyzingkha area can also benefit from the ecotourism project of Bjimichu. There are also many areas where the two Dzongkhags can work together in development of unique tourism products.

Chhukha Dzongkhag with the support of Tourism Council of Bhutan has partnered with Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO) and Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) to produce the "Bjimichu Ecotourism Feasibility Report" in October 2019. The team is currently developing the Action Plan for the product development.

- Sangay Thinley, Sr. EDO

## Student Leaders Elected with Support From Dzongkhag Election Office

On 16th May 2019, the Dzongkhag Election Office supported the Democracy club of Gedu College of Business Studies to elect their student leaders. A total of 19 leaders were elected for various posts of Forum for External Relation and In-house Coordination (FERIC), Global Skills Enhancement Centre (GSEC), Democracy Club, Cultural Coordinator, Gyeljo Coordinator, Games and Sports Coordinator, Health and Well-being Coordinator, Councilors, Academic Representative and Community Partnership Coordinators.



The team of election officials from Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration were invited to coordinate the conduct of election using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). More than 1500 students and the faculty members took part in the voting on the day.

It is one of the mandates of Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB) to undertake electoral education and dissemination of voter information programmes in all the school and institutions. The electoral education also focuses on inculcating civic learning and engagement amongst the students and youth so that they are able to understand their current and future roles and responsibilities as citizen through college and school Democracy Club activities. The President of the College gave remarks on the importance of the day followed by Dzongkhag Electoral Officer who shared on the importance of democracy and election.

-Pema, Dzongkhag Election Officer

## Vaccination of 637 Dogs and Cats

The Community Animal Birth Control (CABC) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination Program was undertaken by the Chhukha Dzongkhag Livestock officials for six Gewogs of Bjabcho, Bongo, Chapcha, Lokchina, Darla & Metakha.

The program was conducted from April to May and a total of 637 dogs and cats were neutered and vaccinated against rabies. Most of the dogs were also provided with treatment for skin disease (dermatitis, mange etc.). For the purpose of the program, temporary clinic was setup in the field in an appropriate location where stray dogs were caught and also the owned dogs could be brought for surgery, anti-rabies vaccination and treatments incase of an emergency.

The communities and schools were informed regarding the program through Gewog administration and Tshogpas. In places like schools and Dratsangs, the students and monks helped catch the dogs. CABC is an important component of the animal health service

contributing significantly towards welfare of general public health.

The adequate fund support from the Government remain an important part for planning and implementation of the activity, while support from the general public in the community, institutions, schools and town, supporting the team in bringing their pet and stray dogs is very critical for success of the programme. Most importantly, it is to reduce the free roaming dog population and control and prevent the dreaded Rabies disease with a community support and livestock sector.

-Dr. Norbu Doelma, DVH, Tsimasham.

Particulars	Bjabcho	Bongo	Chapcha	Darla	Loggchina	Metekha	Total
1	3	19	27	42	156	49	296
2	5	34	44	40	154	64	341
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>637</b>

### Smartest Gewog of Chhukha

Since 2016, the Metakha Gewog Administration adopted a shared value of creating “The Smartest Gewog” in Chhukha Dzongkhag. It is our firm belief for total development of the Gewog. The Smartest Gewog cannot be created in isolation. It should be embodied with a clear vision, mission and local development strategies. In short we call it, The Gewog Strategic Road Map.



To translate the Smartest Gewog vision into the reality, we adopted the collaborative approach, where all the local leaders, civil servants and communities were equally and totally involved in it.

As envisioned, we focused primarily on good internal farm road connectivity, promoting community health and sanitation, enhancing democratic local governance, ensuring food self-sufficiency and efficient public service delivery, increasing primary enrolment and continuing non-formal education, maintaining effective waste management and, above all, empowering our populace to make smart decisions.

Having an effective communication and transportation amongst the Chiwogs and villages is critical for the smart socio economic development. Without it, the vision of Smartest Gewog will remain as the mind map only. To this the administration has initiated several plans and programs in collaboration with Dzongkhag Administration. We have connected all the five Chiwogs and even villages with good internal farm road. The GC road was fully black topped and made to remain stable both in summer and winter. Difficulty and hardship in transporting the good and services within the Gewog has become a thing of the past.

Besides the road connectivity, the community health and sanitation is considered as one of the most critical factors for any developmental activities and happiness of the community people. So we targeted and achieved 100% pour flush toilet coverage and 96% rural water

supply scheme. The Gewog was one of the first recipients of the health and sanitation recognition Award Certificate during His Majesty's Birth Day Celebration, 2019 at Chhukha Central School. We have also carried on successfully the annual health check-up for all people.



We cannot be Smartest Gewog if we fully depend on others for food and other essential commodities. We must be self-reliant to be smart. To move forward we are self-sufficient now in vegetables. With the gracious support from His Majesty's People Project amounting to Nu. 2.80m, the Gewog was able to provide a greenhouse with watering and seedling facilities to every household. To put into the record we have now 100% modern technology kitchen garden. With the introduction of farm mechanization techniques and approaches, the farmers in the Gewog are reaping sufficient paddy harvest every year. Education is an underlying factor for any paradigm shifts. To be Smartest Gewog and a driver for the change initiative, educated communities is inevitable. To do so we have enrolled 38 learners in three newly established NFE Centres and have 100% primary enrolment. We have a plan to enroll a few more left over learners to achieve 100% literacy rate.

The waste prevention and management is one of the growing concerns even in rural community. To tackle this we have initiated monthly cleaning campaign on 2nd day of every month, identified scrap dealer, and every household has waste disposal pit.

The other concern is erratic electricity connectivity and to address this, we have conducted public consultation in all Chiwogs, allocated budget for supply of jersey cow and prepared project proposal for biogas plant development. Through this we aim to convert

waste into renewal energy and fertilizer with technical, financial and professional support from Department of Agriculture and Livestock.

We also explore and create employment opportunities for out of school youths, so



we awarded catering services, established food processing unit and handed over the management of the Guest house. Further more, we have identified a few households to provide home stay facilities so that the visiting officials and dignitaries so that they can interact and understand rural issues, challenges and constraints, and our famers can earn small income, promote cleanliness and learn good values.

Local culture and tradition is unifying spirit and helps keep communities together. To enhance community vitality we have initiated traditional archery tournament, Chiwog wise cultural competition, khuru tournament and annual Gewog picnic. We have preserved and protected as many local Lhakhangs, deities, Soelkhas and Menchus as we could..

Good governance and democracy is one of the pillars of GNH. To strengthen democratic local governance, we initiated monthly management meeting, conduct Chiwog zomdue twice a



year and has formed Chiwog monitoring and evaluation committee. We encourage 100% public participation in developmental activities. In this way, we aspire our dream of making Metakha – the Smartest Gewog in Chhukha Dzongkhag.

- Parladh Mahat, GAO, Metakha

### Say No to Plastic



Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration introduced “Reinforcement of limited Plastic Ban 1999” in compliance to the Notification issued by NECS dated January 14, 2019. It was effectively put into force from April 01, 2019 as directed by the NECS, Thimphu. Simultaneously, business communities were also advocated on the ban including imposition of penalties and waste management, in general.

This is a small humble beginnings at our level and capacity, in solidarity with the NECS efforts and for greater cause of waste management in our country. Each and every one of us can make a difference. Being able to identify the problem when you see it is the first step. Limited plastic ban is restricted to following items only & fine ranges from Nu. 500 to cancellation of business license based on the offences and violations against the use/sale of plastic carry bags, Doma wappers and homemade ice cream (Pepsi) pouches. On this note, Dzongkhag Administration have requested all concerned organizations/individuals to collectively assist and render all necessary support for successful implementation of the ban. By the same token, Dzongkhag Administration also thank Division 03, RBP, Phuentsholing for graciously undertaking the lead responsibility of monitoring & enforcing the ban as part of their ongoing regular mandate of implementing “Zero Littering Strategy initiated under the direction of RBP HQ, Thimphu.

- Sangay Norbu, Environment Officer

### Traditional Archery Promotion Initiative

Bhutan is known for its vivid culture, vibrant festivals and its richness in sports. No festival and celebration is complete without archery and mask dances. Declared in 1971, archery is the national sport of Bhutan.



Traditional archery tournament in Chhukha Dzongkhag was initiated to promote and preserve our unique culture and tradition for national identity and community vitality. It was also organized to create a sense of competition and honour among the Chiwogs and Gewogs.

The Traditional Archery Competition commenced in 2019 and it will be one of the annual events of Chhukha Sports Association specifically for the Gewogs and Chiwogs.

To achieve the underpinning aims and objectives of the tournament, 11 Gewogs including Dzongkhag and Drungkhag teams were divided into four clusters: In cluster A - Bjabcho, Chapcha, Chhukha Dzongkhag and Phuentsholing Drungkhag: Cluster B - Bongo, Darla and Getana, Cluster C: Phuentsholing, Logchina and Sampheling and Cluster D: Dungna, Metakha and Geling.



The tournament took place at three levels. The first being the Gewog level tournament, 33 teams from Chiwogs, Dzongkhag and Drungkhag took part in the events. The second level tournament was organized at the clusters. In this 12 teams, the winners from Gewog level competition took part in it. The third level of tournament, the Dzongkhag level, the final tournament comprising of four teams, the winners from the cluster level is scheduled to organize in November, 2019.



Including the final, a total of 69 teams will be involved in the tournament. To make this tournament happen, Dzongkhag Archery Association liketo sincerely thank Druk Green Power Corporation, Darla, Honourable MP. Dasho Tshewang Lhamo, Honourable NC, Dasho Sangay Dorji and Ghalley Hotel for sponsoring the tournament and Gups and GAOs for their unflinching support.

### Inauguration of Additional Facilities at Pakshikha

Honourable Sherig Lyonpo inaugurated the additional completed facilities constructed by Gol at Pakshikha Central School. The Consular General from Phuentsholing, Dasho Dzongdag and Lama Neten attended the program. The structures include 200 bedded boys hostel, 14 units classroom, toilets, 4 unit staff quarters, football ground and basketball court. Lyonpo also visited Alaykha PS and Gedu HSS on 23rd April 2019. Dzongkhag Administration thanks the Gol for the structures.



### Chhukha Desuup Services January-June, 2019

Since the inception of Desuup training program by His Majesty the King, the communities in any parts of the country enjoyed the immediate and first hand help from the Dessups: be it of community services or supports in needy hours of natural hazards. In line with this, Chhukha Dessups have taken following initiatives:

The 50 Desuups from Samtse, Phuentsholing and



Chhukha volunteered to help control crowd at the Tumdrak Ney during the Maha Shivarathi in March, 2019. About 100,000 devotees visited



the Ney. This is annually organized program by Indo-Bhutan Friendship Association. In April & May 2019, Dessups helped Paga Gonpa reconstruction works through

labour contribution. In collaboration with Gedu Forest Division, Dessups planted 200 saplings on June 2, 2019 at Ganglakha to observe Social Forestry Day coinciding with the Coronation of His Majesty, Jigme Singye Wangchuck. In Just, Dessups carried out mass cleaning from Takti



Canteen to Chhukha Check post. Provided fast hands services during vehicles accidents along the Thimphu - P/ling high ways.

- Tashi Dorji, Teacher, Tsimakha PS

### Health Training on Community Development

Two days health training on community development for the 45 households of Shemagangkha village under Chapcha Gewog was completed on May 30, 2019. Dasho Dzongrab ,



Mangmi and other officials attended the closing. As unanimously agreed, the 21 households of Shemagangkha village who do not have Pour

Flush toilets now have promised to build a PF toilet within four months. Chhukha Dzongkhag is positioned the 18th Dzongkhag in terms of poor health and sanitation coverage in rural communities (PHCB,2017). Rural health and sanitation development is now one of the priority areas of the Dzongkhag in the 12th FYP.

-Gopal Hingmang, Dy. CDHO

### Chanachen Bridge Inauguration



Dasho Dzongdag inaugurated the completed Geling Bridge over Wangchu on the way to Geling Gewog Center on 23rd June, 2019.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Honourable NC Member of Chhukha Dzongkhag,, Thrizin, Gup of nearby Gewogs, Dzongkhag sector heads, and officials from DoR, Geling Gewog officials and public of Chanachen , Geling.

Dasho also visited Chanachen village after inaugural ceremony and interacted with the public of the village. The bridge was built by Department of Roads with the budget of Nu. 16 M. With the completion of Geling farm road, and bridge, all the 11 Gewogs under Chhukha Dzongkhag are now connected with roads.

The opening of Geling GC road will benefit 50 households of Chanachen Chiwog and local leaders of Geling Gewog..



Chanachen village has potentiality in growing cereals and all types of vegetables throughout the season

- Wangdi Gyelpo, Planning Officer

### Honourable Secretary Visits to Chhukha

The Honourable Secretary of Works and Human Settlement visited and met the sector heads and staff of engineering sector on May 11, 2019. Dasho shared his expectations and advised on quality and issues related to construction works. As the new Secretary of MoWHS , the sector heads and engineering staff offered Thri dhar on the occasion of his promotion led by Dasho Dzongrab and OC Tsimasham,RBP.



### Annual Chhukha Moenam Chhenmo



The 6th Annual Chhukha Moenam Chhenmo was organized from March 19-23, 2019 at Gedu. Thousand of devotees from

11 Gewogs of Chhukha, business communities, students and civil servants attended the five day long Moenam presided by Ven. Dorji Lopon of Zhung Dratshang.

## In Search of Golden Youth Award Candidates for 2019



Twenty four students comprising of 12 girls and 12 boys from the twelve schools of Chhukha Dzongkhag and Phuentsholing Thromdey actively took part in a day long selection interview on May 16, 2019. Of 24 students two girls and two boys were selected as the Golden Youth of Chhukha Dzong khag and Phuentsholing Thromdey to represent at the National Level comepition.

## Visit of Secretary, DDC

Honourable Secretary of Dzongkha Development Commission visited Chhukha Dzongkhag on 21st December 2018 with the purpose to sensitize and advocate Dzongkhag staff, local government and regional offices about the importance of usage of Dzongkha. Dasho Dzongrab and team have organised this program at Dzongkhag Conference Hall.



Dasho Secretary presented on coverage of National Language Dzongkha, basis for Dzongkha Language Policy, 12FYP and strategies to improve Dzongkha and tools developed for widespread and development of Dzongkha. Moreover,

Dasho also highlighted on the status of usage of Dzongkha for official correspondence across Ministries and Dzongkhags.

Dasho emphasized on HM's vision for National Security and Sovereignty and reminded all participants that it is wholesome responsibility to maintain our national identity. Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration thanked DDC for such an initiative and promised to continue working hard to promote Dzongkha at all levels.

- Ugyen Chada, Culture Officer

## Sincere Prayers and Wishes to All Our Teachers

Bruce Lee, the king of martial arts said " a teacher is never a giver of truth, he/she is a guide, a painter to the truth that each student must find for himself or herself"



We wish a very happy teachers day to all our teachers , the painter of all truths and values to our children, the future leaders of the nation!

## Chhukha Wins Annual National Website Competition 2019

The Ministry of Information and Communication organizes Annual National Website Competition involving Government, Corporate and interested private websites to promote this medium for access to public information and delivery of services.

Chhukha Dzongkhag was declared and awarded as the winner in Dzongkhag category on May 17, 2019 coinciding with the celebration of the World Telecommunication day in Thimphu.

The Dzongkhag Administration congratulates





and appreciates Mrs. Tshering Zam, ICTO and Mrs. Dorji Tshomo, ICTA for their initiatives and the feat achieved.

### Chhukha Beautification Project Initiative

Beautification is the process of improving and maintaining the aestheticism of a town, city, urban or rural areas for the long term benefit of the people. It involves basically cleaning up of areas, creating parks/gardens/open spaces, improving appearance of built infrastructures and preserving historic and cultural sites.



In line with His Majesty’s noble vision of creating “a safe and beautiful environment where we live in” Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration formulated “The Strategic Beautification Road Map, 2018-23” The first and foremost strategy to achieve the beautification plan was the advocacy program to create an awareness on conceptual



frameworks and policy of beautification project initiative in Chhukha Dzongkhag. This crucial program of first of its kind was provided to all local leaders, business communities, sector and regional heads of the Dzongkhag. Through this program, areas adoption for ownership and accountability such as Dzong areas, Tsimalakha and Tsimatsham Throm and highway areas was completed.



Second in line, this project initiative strategizes to establish 54 recreational parks and 2 micro parks in collaboration with 32 Schools, 11 Gewogs, 16 Hospitals, business communities and other corporate agencies. The project will also conserve and beautify all important historical sites, lhakhangs and institutions. The end result of this is to create beautiful recreational spaces for well being of the people.



Ensuring a bank of flora seedling supply through encouragement of private nurseries and floriculture is an approach that we like to keep going. The project has also plan to organize Annual Flower Exhibition too. Within six months of time, around four private nurseries were established and doing well in their new undertakings. In this way we also like to enhance our local economic growth and generate

employment opportunities for our youth.

Whatever the important and relevant program or project may be, maintaining its sustainability matters most during the implementation and thereof. Therefore the project has started institutionalizing and maintaining a robust monitoring and reporting system as the suitable strategy. In fact it requires providing professional guidance and support services to our main stakeholders.

The signaling effect that we could observe from this project initiative was the business communities taking interest in maintaining a clean and beautiful market areas in Tsimalakha and Tsimasham. Re-painting of doma-tsun painted pillars and old and faded buildings by the shopkeepers were the positive behavioral changes evidence seen of late. It is indeed a noble vision to inculcate a value of love and a sense of appreciation in oneself and others through beautification project.

- Tshering Norbu, Beautification Officer

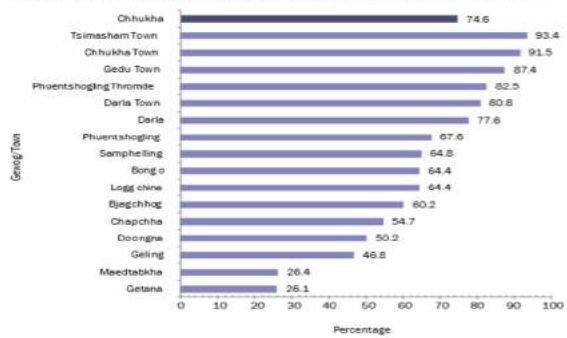
### Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Program

Having access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation is vital for our life. Without it everyone is forced to use water from a contaminated source and live in a poor sanitation and hygiene leading to frequent sickness and even death.

Chukha Dzongkhag is placed in the 18th position out of 20 Dzongkhags in terms of poor sanitation and hygiene (PHCB,2017). It is therefore important to promote a progressively affordable, accountable and sustainable sanitation and hygiene program in rural communities.

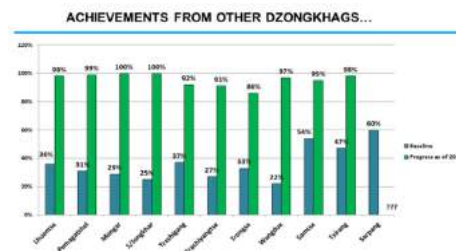
In our country, Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Programme (RSAHP) coordinated by Public Health Engineering Division (PHED) under Ministry of Health with technical assistance from SNV has developed approaches to improve overall sanitation and hygiene practices in the rural communities with two primary objectives: adapt and pilot the best practice in rural communities. and explore affordable and appropriate sanitation technologies suitable for rural Bhutan. Since 2011, the RSAHP was piloted and rolled out phase wise in the country. Chukha Dzongkhag is included as the 13th

Figure 7.3 Distribution of Households with Improved Sanitation Facilities by Gewog/Town, Chukha 2017

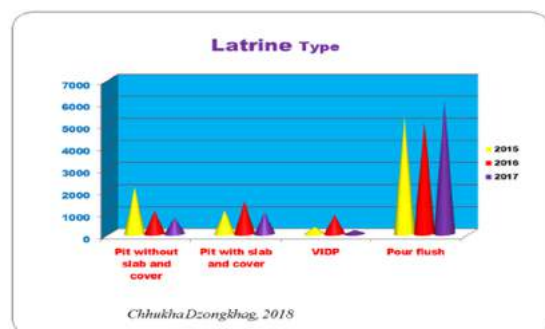


dzongkhag for the rolled out from 5th April, 2019 to 5th April 2021.

The inception workshop was conducted at Phuntsholing from 5th to 6th March, 2019 for 11 Gups, GAO and 20 Health Incharges. As of now a total of 112 masons were trained (2 from each Chewog) for 5 days at Rangaytung BHU and Darla .



The main expected outputs of this project are : (i) Every households have sustainable access to improve sanitation facilities. (ii) Deepen behavioral changes with respect to proper hygiene through CDH workshop (iii) Community participation and ownership promoted.



In order to ensure the proper implementation and achievement of the set goals, the Dzongkhag administration has signed a memorandum of understanding with 11 Gups and a monitoring and reporting system is in place.

- Karma Wangchuk, Dy. CDHO

## **Pakshigang Villagers Wait for a Farm road**

Kesh Bahadur Mongar from Pakshigang in Darla Gewog grew cardamom in eight acres of land in 2015 and harvested six mon (a mon is 40 kgs), which fetched him Nu 360,000. He said that he had a profit of Nu 260,000 as he spent only Nu 100,000 while growing the cardamom.

Luck did not favour Kesh Bahadur the following years, as his income from the cash crop decreased from Nu 1500 a kg in the first year to Nu 500 a kg. The income was, however, sufficient for a family of five.



Villagers use a stove made from stone, mud, planks and rod to dry cardamom, which can dry 70kgs of cardamom in three days. What is interesting about Pakshigang is that people do not have to pay labour charges. In a small community, residents help each other during the harvest time on turn basis. This helps in community vitality and bonding.

The villagers have their share of problems. Since the village does not have a farm road, people carry the produce on their back to Deorali, the nearest road point, which is three and half hours



walk from the village. People have to pay labour charges in transporting the cardamom. A person could carry a mon of cardamom and have to pay Nu 300. They have to also guard their cash crop, as rodents affect their cardamom at night and monkeys affect during the day.

The gewog officials are in the village these days to conduct a survey for a farm road. Kesh Bahadur is happy that life will change after the village is connected with a farm road. He is hoping his cardamoms will fetch him a good income.

Damcho, GAO, Darla

## **PLACES OF INTEREST IN CHHUKHA**



**Bjimchu Ecotourism site - Bongo**

**Ammochu Bridge - Phuentsholing**

**Tumdrak Ami Ney - Darla**

**Dhokhachu Goenpa - Chapcha**

**Tsamdrak Goenpa - Chapcha**

**Ngoedrup-Tse Dzong - Bjabcho**

**Phaktshoding Lake - Gedu**

## Institutional Memories that Was.

*“Institutional memory is an organization’s collective knowledge of what things mean, how it has changed and who changed it. The memory also refers to a collective ability to accumulate, retain and retrieve information of an organization required for future references”*

- 3M Initiative (Monthly Management Meeting) commenced in 2017 to strengthen good governance principally based on continuous improvement of administration and management system .
- Institutionalized the 3A Initiative (Academic Acceleration Activities) in all secondary schools in 2017 for student academic enhancement in the Dzongkhag.
- To improve food and nutrition in schools. the Education and RNR Sectors jointly initiated the supplying of indigenous RNR products in 2017 .
- Intensified the in-house and premises greening program through Beautification Project Initiative in 2019.
- In line with the 12th FYP, all sector heads formulated the Sector Strategic Road Map in 2019
- For effectiveness in managing the plans and programs, introduced the online monitoring and reporting system in 2019.
- Development of Metakha Gewog into The Smartest Gewog in Chukha Dzongkhag since 2016.
- Introduction of traditional archery tournament in 2019 at Gewogs, Cluster and Dzongkhag levels to promote and preserve our unique aged-old tradition and culture for national identity.
- Initiation of Annual Dzongkhag Award System in 2019 to continuously enhance and accomplish the local government Key Result Areas.



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