

Your Week Begins Here!

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03

Strategy to battle against corruption

PM Modi assures on further strengthening Bhutan-India cooperation

Sonam Penjor

Indian Prime Minister (PM) Shri Narendra Modi who is on a two-day state visit to Bhutan was received by Lyonchen Dr Lotay Tshering, cabinet members and another senior government official with the guard of honour at Paro International Airport yesterday.

During the day, PM Modi received an audience with His Majesty The King, Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen and His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

PM Modi also met his counterpart Lyonchen at Gyalyong Tshogkhag yesterday.

Taking off on a very special note, the two Prime Ministers exchanged thoughts on strengthening the cooperation between the two countries and discussed various issues of mutual benefits.

At the meeting, Prime Minister said Lyonchen as a medical doctor and his passion to improve health services in Bhutan really touched his heart. In this backdrop, Prime Minister said he will work hard to help realize the dream of building a multi-disciplinary super specialty hospital in the country.

He urged the counterparts to sit together and map out the details as soon as possible.

Among others, discussions were also held on space programs and technologies, increase in the currency swap limit,



His Majesty The King granted an Audience to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Throne Room of the Tashichhodzong yesterday. The Prime Minister of India is on a two-day State Visit to Bhutan

increasing the green LPG cylinder supply, Sankosh, and Kholongchhu projects.

During the visit, two Prime Minister jointly inaugurated the 720 megawatt (MW) Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA), launched six stamps commemorating five decades of Indo-Bhutan Hydropower and RuPay card, establish-

ment of ground station for South Asia Satellite, interconnection between Indian National Knowledge Network (NKN) and Druk Research and Education Network (DrukREN), and exchange of six pre-signed memorandum of understandings

The 720MW Hydroelectric plant that has been commissioned marks

an important milestone in commemorating five decades of hydropower cooperation between the two countries besides taking Bhutan's hydropower installed capacity to 2.326MW an increase by 44.8 percent on the existing total installed capacity of 1.606MW.

The Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project (HEP) is one of the Inter-Gov-

ernmental (IG) Hydroelectric Projects developed under the 10,000 MW initiatives of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) and Government of India (GoI).

The cost of the project was estimated at

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PM Modi assures on further strengthening Bhutan India cooperation

Nu 28.96 billion (B) as of March 2008 price level. The final cost of completion is about Nu 51B. The entire financing for the project was provided by the GoI with 70 percent as loan at 10 percent simple interest and 30 percent as grant.

All the four units of plant were commissioned in June and August this year. As of July this year MHPA employed a total staff of 500 of which 477 were Bhutanese and 23 were Indian nationals.

The annual energy generation is estimated at 3,008 million units (MUs). The surplus will be exported to India at Nu 4.12 per unit. The project would be earning estimated gross revenue of around Nu 12,000M annually.

The RuPay is an initiative of Indian Prime Minister to promote financial inclusion through digital technology in India. Bhutan is the second country to be part of the internationalization of the RuPay after Singapore. The RuPay card scheme is made possible in Bhutan through the connection of the Bhutan Financial Switch with India's National Financial Switch.

The launched of the financial switch integration of the RuPay network will enable cross-border interoperability of RuPay cards in ATMs and Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for travelers in terms of having to carry huge amounts of cash.

The Indian-issued RuPay cards in Bhutan would not only facilitate Indian travelers to Bhutan by reducing the need to carry cash but also boost the Bhutanese banking system.

It would further integrate the economies of both countries. Both sides would expeditiously work on the next phase of the project that's the

issuance of RuPay cards across the India-Bhutan border.

With the introduction of the RuPay card in Bhutan, Indian travelers to Bhutan can withdraw Ngultrum at ATMs and make payment at PoS. Likewise, Bhutanese travelers to India can withdraw INR and make payments with their RuPay cards.

Following the launched of the RuPay, a feasibility study would be undertaken for interconnecting with India's Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) to promote cashless payments between the two countries.

Similarly, a Ground Station for the South Asian Satellite (SAS) was launched and this is an idea initiated by Indian PM during the 14th SAARC Summit in Nepal in November 2014 to serve the needs of SAARC nations.

With the launch of the satellite, Bhutan began preparing for the utilization of the transponder allocated to the country. Ground Station for SAS was funded by GoI through the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). The main hub station for Bhutan is built in the premises of Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS).

Bhutan's journey into space has taken off as a result of His Majesty The King's vision to harness space resources and technologies for the benefit of the country. The inauguration of the ground station marks a major milestone in taking forward His Majesty's vision.

It would help Bhutan for tele-medicine, tele-education, banking, and television broadcasting. With the South Asia satellite equipped with remote sensing technology, it will enable the collection of real-time

weather data and help in observation of the geology of Bhutan.

The inter-connection between NKN and DrukREN would benefit Bhutan immensely through DrukREN's connection with universities, research institution, libraries, laboratories healthcare, and agriculture institutions across India.

A high speed (10Gigabit per second) fibre optics backbone network called DrukREN has been established interconnecting 25 research and education institutes in the country.

DrukREN has 11 points of presence (PoP) which are in Thimphu, Paro, Gedu, Phuentsholing, Wangduephodrang, Gelephu, Trongsa, Bumthang, Pemagatshel, Mongar and Kanglung.

DrukREN would facilitate the participation of our researchers in world-class collaborative research projects such as radio-astronomy, telemedicine and crop research among others.

Within and outside Bhutan, it will also support cost-effective and timesaving e-learning initiatives, making education more flexible and accessible.

Department of Information Technology and telecom (DITT) is already exploring telemedicine activities with Telemedicine Development Center of Asia (TEMDEC), Kyushu University Hospital, Japan in close consultation with the Ministry of Health.

DITT would further expand DrukREN backbone to cover all 20 Dzongkhags and connect more than 160 research and large educational institutes including hospitals and schools in the 12th FYP under Digital Drukylul Flagship projects.

Meanwhile, two Prime

Minister also exchanged nine pre-signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU includes Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation between Aircraft Investigation Unit, Ministry of Information and Communications, RGoB and Aircraft Accident and Investigation Bureau, Ministry of Civil Aviation GoI which was proposed by GoI.

The objective of this MoU was to enhance aviation safety cooperate in an aircraft accident and accident investigation and also investigation training and sharing of information and expertise.

Under this MoU, the two sides would cooperate in an aircraft accident and incident investigation, investigation training and sharing of information and expertise.

Another MoU was exchanged in between the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) and four leading Indian Universities that includes the National Institutes of Technology in Kanpur, Delhi, Calcutta, and Bombay.

This would enable academic cooperation with emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and faculty exchanges.

Further, the MoU between the National Legal Institute of Bhutan and the National Judicial Academy of India was to undertake to encourage and promote judicial education including continuing judicial education and training of Bhutanese judges at the National Judicial Academy in India.

A MoU between Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSW law) and the National School of India University (NSLIU) to develop academic and

cultural interchange in the areas of legal education and research.

MoU between DITT and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was undertaken to cooperation in the field of application of South Asia Satellite and in particular for the establishment, operation and maintenance of a Satellite Communication (SatCom) network with hub station and user terminals.

Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) between Power Trading Corporation (PTC) of India Limited and Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC) for sale and purchase of Mangdechhu power was exchanged.

As per the 2010 Mangdechhu agreement and April 2019 Protocol to the agreement between the GoI and the RGoB regarding the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project, the two governments have authorized PTC India limited, and the DGPC to enter into power purchase agreement for sale and purchase of all the surplus power available from the project.

PTC India Limited and the DGPC are the nodal agencies in India and Bhutan respectively for the inter-country sale of Magdechhu power.

According to the PPA, the tariff at which the energy will be sold by DGPC to PTC at the delivery point will be Nu 4.12 per KWh.

Meanwhile, the Indian PM will have address the students at RUB today, will visit National Memorial Chorten and later meet Leader of Opposition.

His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen will host a luncheon at the Kuenrey of Tashichhodzong for PM Modi, and in the afternoon PM Modi and his delegation will leave the country.



Strategy to battle against corruption



Lhakpa Tshering

Various approaches have taken to fight against corruption. The prevalence of corruption in the country saw some improvement, taking Bhutan to 25th least corrupt country of 180 countries in 2018.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) launched its third 'National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy (NIACS) 2019-2023' on 14 August in Thimphu.

To make harmonious and corruption free society, and enhancement of good governance with the theme 'DAMTSI: Developing Accountable, Moral and Transparent Systems and Individuals', the move will reinvigorate the policy on 'zero tolerance to corruption'.

Corruption endangers impede of functioning the public sector, abuse of entrusted power for private gain, weakens the public trust towards state institutions, and hinders economic growth, democratic transition and stable devel-

opment of the country.

Towards this, NIACS is the way forward in jointly fulfilling the responsibility of combating corruption. It is a national operative framework and closely aligns with the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP) to guide effective realization of the 12th National Key Result Area on 'Corruption Reduced'.

Highlighting the risk of corruption, Lyonchhen Dr Lotay Tshering said that the government is serious about tackling corruption. "We have dedicated national key result area for corruption," he said. "This government will put a lot of focus on this area."

Lyonchhen said that the government has been focusing on political and economic policies but lacks social policy. "We do not have a good social policy that would have given us very strong human investment," he said, adding that the policy that would keep all people to listen and understand each other.

As Bhutan steps from

the Least Developed Country category to lower middle income country by 2023, it is imperative that the corruption be controlled.

The Chairperson of ACC, Kinley Yangzom said that Bhutan is considered as a progressive nation particularly in driving the anti-corruption agenda. She said, "The corruption perception has increased over the past years."

Despite significant progress over the years, she said, so much more needs to be done. "Bhutan will become increasingly vulnerable to more complex forms of corruption if we do not take ownership to challenge corruption."

To ensure inclusive, equitable and sustainable socio-economic and political development, values and principles of integrity must be imbedded as a quintessential attribute of good governance.

The strategic emphasizes on institutionalizing anti-corruption and integrity measures in all the agencies for transparent, accountable

and integrity culture, enhance integrity consciousness and credibility, and effectiveness of law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

To developing the NIACS, ACC consulted wide range of stakeholders to review the earlier drafts, conduct in-depth analysis of the country's preparedness against corruption in the 12th FYP, and collectively develop suitable strategies and action plans.

This strategy is an outcome of progressive consultation at various stages with more than 1,190 representatives from diverse agencies such as the parliament, judiciary, constitutional bodies, ministries, autonomous agencies, corporations, media, civil societies and youth groups.

For the first time, a foresight on anti-corruption and integrity was also conducted as a preparatory work to validate the draft strategy.

A national level committee called 'National Integrity Committee (NIC) headed by Prime Minister will meet an-

nually to monitor the progress of the NIACS for the successful implementation.

It comprises members from the judiciary, constitutional bodies, private sector and civil society organization. This is an unprecedented move to prevent and combat corruption holistically.

The NIC shall be the highest forum on 'integrity and anti-corruption' and mandate to introduce policies and programs to promote integrity in the country.

The activities under the NIACS shall be made mandatory for all budgetary agencies through Annual Performance Agreement and Target. It expects all the agencies to incorporate the mandatory indicator on corruption reduction.

Further, the integrity committee consisting representatives from the Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat, Government Performance Management Division of the Cabinet Secretariat and ACC would support the NIC.

Letters & opinions to be published in BT should be sent to btmedia2009@gmail.com. It should not exceed 700 words & will be edited for clarity and space. All editorial decisions rest with BT

The friendly neighbours

It was a historic moment yesterday as Bhutan and its people had the rare opportunity to welcome the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi for the second time into the country. The atmosphere was filled with tranquility and eagerness as the plane carrying the Prime Minister landed in Paro International airport. After the warm welcome by his Bhutanese counterpart and with the presentation of guard of honour by the armed forces, Shri Narendra Modi and his encourage left for Thimphu after that.

In an amazing gesture on his arrival in the country, he thanked the Prime Minister of Bhutan through a tweet in Dzongkha for coming personally to welcome him at the airport.

Looking back at the Bhutan India friendship, the strong foundation was laid by the India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and His Majesty the Third Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. Successive leaders of the two nations, cutting across party lines, further cemented the close and special relations and brought a new level of trust to our bilateral relations.

The first foreign visit of Lyonchhen Dr. Lotey Tshering to India on assuming the post of the Prime Minister last year clearly indicate the importance given to the relationship between Bhutan and India. Lyonchhen Dr. Lotey made his second visit to New Delhi during

the swearing in ceremony of Shri Narendra Modi to congratulate him and extended the good wishes of the people of Bhutan in winning the election for the second time.

In a third bilateral meeting held in Thimphu yesterday the two sides agreed to work together in strengthening the already strong bonds of friendship among the two nations.

It was during the start of the first five year plan in 1961 that India has encouraged Bhutan to abandon the policy of self imposed isolation and start the process of development. The first two Five Years Plans of Bhutan was entirely financed by India along with the technical expertise. In a historic move India also supported Bhutan's membership to the United Nations in 1971. India still continues to be Bhutanese largest development partner including the current 12th five year plan. The two countries work very closely together on issues of mutual concern and interest.

Shri Narendra Modi has announced that the India will help in the establishment of multi disciplinary hospital, increase the LPG subsidy and extended to loan the 253 year old statue of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel for another five year. The ceremony at the sacred hall of the Semtokha Dzong which was built by Zhabdrung Rimpoche in 1629 was an important land mark in Bhutan India relationship.

May the friendship grow from strength to strength.

Successful Commissioning of 720MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project

Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA) Management may like to share with the citizens of the Bhutan that 720 Mega Watts (MWs) Mangdechhu Project has now succeeded in commissioning the Project at optimum cost and time.

It is not out of place to mention here that the Mangdechhu Project is the first Hydro Project under the commitment made by the Government of India (GoI) to the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) for creating 10,000MW installed capacity by the year 2020. The entire execution of the Mangdechhu Project has been carried out under the Inter-Governmental (IG) Model. The IG Agreement to execute Mangdechhu Project between the two Governments was signed on 30th April 2010.

The major Civil & Hydro-mechanical contracts were awarded by the MHPA Management on 20th March 2012. However, the Electro-mechanical and Transmission Line & its ATS works contracts were awarded in January 2013.

Mangdechhu Project works completed in all respect in March 2019. Thus, the total time consumed in the execution of the Project was seven years. The reservoir filling activity was taken up by the MHPA Management from 2nd April 2019.

The synchronization of all the 4 Units with the Indian Grid has taken place on the following dates;

Unit-1 – 16th June
Unit-2 – 30th June
Unit-3 – 15th August
Unit-4 – 8th August

Unit-1&2 started generating the power on the commercial basis from the 28th June and 8th July 2019 respectively. The power generation from both the units as above remained in the range of 360-375MWs. As far as the Commercial Operation Dates (CODs) of Unit-3&4 are concerned, the same shall be taking place shortly.

MHPA Management

initiated the Mangdechhu Project on ground when the Bi-laterally agreed cost of the Project as per DPR was Nu 28.96 Billion (B) (March 2008 price level). However, the completion cost of the Project shall be around Nu 51B (March 2019 price level).

The annual energy generation from Mangdechhu Project is estimated as 2925MU. The tariff of the electricity which shall be exported to India shall be at the price Nu 4.12 per Unit. The theoretical estimated revenue to the RGoB shall be around Nu 12B per year.

Successful commissioning of the Mangdechhu Project as above is in fact dependent on so many crucial inputs, right from the day the project was taken up by the MHPA Management after the groundbreaking ceremony. Some of the key areas for successful commissioning are as below;

Development of infrastructure i.e. access roads and construction power before the award of the major works.

No mobilization period was allowed to the Civil, Hydro-mechanical and Electro-mechanical contracts. The time measurement was done with effect from the date of letter of award (LOA) to the each contractor.

Implemented Standard Bidding Document (SBD) for the first time in the Hydroelectric Projects. Risks sharing matrix was introduced in the SBD as above.

7.5MW backup power through DG sets was provided to the Project from Day-1.

Selected and appointed the competent Engineers for execution of the works.

Incentives were released to each of the civil contractor on achievement of the targets.

Project Review Meetings (PRMs) were conducted initially on monthly basis then the same were conducted on fortnightly and weekly basis. Round the clock, monitoring of the Project was done

meticulously.

Rate analysis of extra and deviated items carried out by two committees and approvals for the rates were accorded without loss of time.

The entire project work was executed with a limited manpower comprising 92 percent Bhutanese and 8 percent Indians.

A cohesive team who were gelling well with the MHPA Management was placed in each component of the Project.

Minimum and precise paper work/office files were promoted. MHPA Management decided on the technical and commercial matters in one go without wasting time.

The following two technical decisions which impacted the project schedule were taken by the MHPA Management;

Placement of concrete cutoff wall in the upstream coffer dam.

Non-shifting of the Underground Power House Caverns/3D Numerical Modeling by NIRM.

Informal and output oriented working right from the Supervisor to MHPA Management was practiced.

MHPA Management remained available round the clock to all the officers/employees, which reduced the human interface issues to minimum.

Apart from the above, there are other numerous measures which were implemented for the successful commissioning of the Mangdechhu Project.

In nutshell, the per MW cost of the Project which is hovering around Nu 6.11 Crs (excluding Transmission Line component) is the optimum cost if compared with the contemporary Hydro Projects of similar size in India/Bhutan which have been commissioned recently or under construction.

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Pilot project to eradicate gastric cancer in the country

Lhakpa Tshering

A gastric cancer eradication pilot project will be implemented at Dawakha BHU catchment areas from October 2019 to September 2022. Dawakha has reported the highest stomach cancer rate in the country.

With the pilot project getting underway, it would prevent the incidence and death of gastric cancer through effective screening and eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*). It will further improve the early detection of gastric through endoscopy.

This project expects the inhabitants of Dawakha to understand the risk of *H. pylori* and actively participate in medical check-up. Consequently, more than 50 percent of inhabitants who are older than 20 years old (1,500) in Dawakha would go to medical check-up.

The pilot project will target Thimphu and inhabitants of Dawakha sub-district. It will also create a successful model case by teaching necessary measures for eradicating gastric cancer to the residents and medical personnel in certain areas.

The findings from this project will be used to guide and support development of national gastric cancer control program. It will roll-out nationwide program to reduce incidence and mortality of gastric cancer.

The project is also exploring fund to procure latest high-end endoscopy machine that can improve the detection rate of early gastric cancer.

This pilot project is initiated by the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB), Ministry of Health, Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital (JDWRNH) and a nonprofit organization Zero *Helicobacter* IGAN Network of Japan (HIGAN).

This project will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and HIGAN. The executing agency for technical cooperation of the government of Japan, JICA will implement



KGUMSB, MoH and JDWRNH will have medical persons participate in endoscope training of this project in Bhutan and Japan

the project under the JICA Partnership Program in collaboration with HIGAN.

Evidence from other countries suggests that major proportion of stomach cancer is attributed to infection by *H. pylori*.

Studies in Bhutan suggest the prevalence of *H. pylori* infection ranges from 66 percent in children to 80 percent in patients presenting gastric problems. The *H. pylori* bacteria isolated in Bhutan are known to be the most carcinogenic strain in the world.

A professor with HIGAN, Yomiko Kamogawa said that gastric cancer is a most frequent cancer in Bhutan. "The major cause of gastric cancer is known to be *H. pylori* infection," she said. "The prevalence of *H. pylori* is extremely high and bacterial strain is highly toxic like Japan."

She said Japan used to be one of the countries suffered with gastric cancer. "To overcome this problem, we developed screening for GCA and introduce eradication therapy," she said. "On the process for doing this, we developed several special techniques such as endoscopic detection and operation."

Yomiko Kamogawa said the epidemiology data from this pilot project will give important information to the nationwide strategy for the eradication of gastric cancer in Bhutan in the future. "We are happy to share the knowledge the

countries that has similar problem with us," she said.

The project would help to strengthen laboratory capacity of Bhutan to detect *H. pylori* infection and assessment of efficacy of *H. pylori* treatment.

The president of KGUMSB, Dr KP Tshering said that gastric cancer remains a significant public health issue in the country. "Japan has done a wonderful job in controlling the gastric cancer," he said. "We are excited to collaborate on this pilot project."

Through this project, he said the people are expected to benefit on advocacy, education in stomach cancer and *H. pylori* bacteria infection. "The awareness of *H. pylori* is very poor in the country including the medical field."

As a part of this project, eight medical doctors are being trained to conduct advance endoscopy to detect early gastric cancer taking Train-the-Trainer approach.

The agencies agreed to work out the details of activities and measures to be taken by JICA, KGUMSB and MoH concerning the pilot project.

To implement the project efficiently and effectively, JICA will supervise the overall implementation of the project and bear only those expenses it considers necessary. It will maintain ownership of the equipment to be procured through its funding for the implementation of the project.

The authorities concerned of KGUMSB will provide necessary information such as data, map and documents and information about details on security conditions.

The authorities concerned of health ministry will provide necessary information such as inhabitant's health data at project site. It will be responsible to provide Bhutanese laboratory technicians to examine inhabitants' samples.

KGUMSB, MoH and JDWRNH will have medical persons participate in endoscope training of this project in Bhutan and Japan

JDWRNH will provide necessary information such as endoscopic data and documents. With the health ministry, it will allow medical personnel to attend endoscopic training performed by HIGAN.

The medical procedure to take blood sample from inhabitants in Dawakha will be done by KGUMSB and MoH at their own risk and responsibility.

While the laboratory scientists in Royal Center for Disease Control acquire the methods for *H. pylori* detection test as well as for antibiotics resistance, the medical doctors in Bhutan acquire the skill for detecting gastric cancer.

HIGAN will inform the risks of gastric cancer and *H. pylori* to inhabitants of Dawakha and introduce the methods for detection of *H. pylori* to Bhutanese

laboratory technicians, give an instruction for the detection of gastric cancer by endoscopy to the Bhutanese medical doctors.

HIGAN has visited Bhutan in 2010, 2014 and 2015 to examine infection status of *H. pylori* in Bhutan by endoscopy. It performed about 800 endoscopy and found about 80 percent of population is infected with *H. pylori*.

It also found that the majority of *H. pylori* in Bhutan are highly virulent, and resistant to Metronidazole (one of antibiotics that used to use for eradication of *H. pylori*).

The cervical and stomach cancers constituted the majority of the cancer burden in the country. It is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths.

The population-based cancer registry maintained at the national referral hospital recorded 2,648 cancer cases from 2014-2017 of which 954 individuals died.

The average annual incidence of cervical cancer is 25 per 100,000 populations with similar incidence of stomach cancer at 24 per 100,000 populations.

Stomach cancer causes the highest mortality amongst all cancers with 12 deaths per 100,000 populations. Currently most stomach cancer cases are detected at late stage. Thus, it makes difficult with majority of cases ends up dying.



ROYAL EDUCATION COUNCIL



REC/PRO/Ad/02/2019-20/6908

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Royal Education Council, Paro invites capable and interested consultancy firms to submit the expression of interest (Eoi) to carry out "Evaluation of the Dzongkha School Curriculum PP-XII".

The Eoi should be submitted to the Procurement Section on or before **September 13, 2019 at 10 AM** and will be opened on the same day at **10:30 AM**.

The complete set of documents can be downloaded from www.rec.gov.bt
For more information, please refer to terms of reference or call us at **08-271226** during office hours.

BHUTAN POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

Distribution & Customer Services Department
Electricity Services Division



Ref. BPC/D&CSD/Tech-21/2019/370

Notice Inviting Tender

Electricity Services Division, BPCL, Thimphu would like to invite sealed bids to eligible suppliers for supply of misc items.

Interested vendors/suppliers within Thimphu may purchase complete set of bidding documents on submission of written application along with copies of valid trade license to the Chief Manager, ESD, BPC, Thimphu upon deposit of **Nu. 1000** cost of tender docs.

The last date of submission of the bid is on or before **30.08.19 (12: Noon)**, for further details kindly contact at phone no. **325590** during office hours. **(9:00 AM to 5:00 PM)**

Chief Manager

Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited

A Joint Venture of Druk Green (Bhutan) & SJVN (India)
Incorporated under the Companies Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2000
Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project (600 MW)



04/KHEL/P&C/NIT/2019/261

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited (KHEL), Trashiyangtse, Bhutan is pleased to invite sealed bids from eligible Bhutanese Suppliers having valid trade license for "Supply of Environment Monitoring Equipment, Safety Gadgets & PPEs".

The Bidding Document shall be on sale from **August 16, 2019** up to **September 14, 2019**. Bids shall be received up to **10.30 AM BST** on or before **September 16, 2019** and shall be opened on the same day at **11.00 AM BST**. Interested Bidders may obtain the complete set of Bidding Document upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Nu. 1,000.00** (Ngultrum One Thousand only) from the Procurement and Contracts Division, KHEL, Trashiyangtse or download from KHEL website (www.khepbhutan.com), in which case, the bidders should register themselves by intimating the Procurement and Contracts Division, KHEL before the deadline for submission of the bid and submit the cost of the Bidding Document at the time of submitting the bid.

For further information, kindly contact this office at Tele No. **04-781158/781167** during office hours.

Chief Engineer (Contracts)

BHUTAN TIMES LIMITED

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Bhutan Times is pleased to announce the following vacancy:

SI No	Position	Qualification	Slot
1	Marketing Manager	BBA (Marketing)	1

Interested candidates having Bachelors degree certificate and experience in related field may apply within **30th August, 2019** to the Head Office, Bhutan Times Limited, Thimphu along with all relevant documents or email: btmedia2009@gmail.com.

For further details please contact @ **02-335007** during office hours and only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.

Preference will be given to female candidates.

Management



FACULTY OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan
POST BOX: 298



Ref. No:- FNP/Pro/06-Tender/2019-2020/1216

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, Thimphu would like to invite sealed bids from interested eligible bidders for the supply and installation of the following items for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Description	
Supply, Installation and Configuration of Library Security System.	Nu. 1,000.00 (Non-Refundable)
supply, Installation and Commissioning of Local Area Network (LAN-Up-gradation) and IP based CCTV Cameras	Nu. 1,000.00 (Non-Refundable)
Sale of Documents	26th August, 2019 from AFD, FNP.
Last Date of submission of bids	26th September, 2019 at 11.00AM
Date, time & Venue of bid opening	26th September, 2019 at 11.30AM in the Faculty Conference Hall.

For any enquiries contact: **02-321212/321210** during office hours.

DEAN



FACULTY OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan
POST BOX: 298



Ref. No:- FNP/Pro/06-Tender/2019-2020/1216

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, Thimphu would like to invite sealed bids from interested eligible bidders for the Construction of Public Toilet & Miscellaneous Works for the following works:

Description	
Construction of Public Toilet & Miscellaneous Works	Nu. 500.00 (Non-Refundable)
Sale of Documents	26th August, 2019 from AFD, FNP.
Last Date of submission of bids	26th September, 2019 at 11.00AM
Date, time & Venue of bid opening	26th September, 2019 at 11.30AM in the Faculty Conference Hall.

For any enquiries contact: **02-321212/321210** during office hours.

DEAN

BHUTAN TIMES LIMITED



NOTICE FOR EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of M/s Bhutan Times Limited will be held on the 19th of September, 2019 from 2.30 PM in the conference hall of Visa Centre, Thimphu Plaza, Thimphu to transact the following business:

1. Decide the future of company, in view of the pending dues payable to the Ministry of Finance
2. Any other issues

All the share holders are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting in person or by proxy, on the date, place and time mentioned above.

The proxy form will be available from the Office on demand or can be downloaded from our face book page.

Please note that decisions taken in this EGM will be final and binding on all shareholders and no further complaints will be entertained.

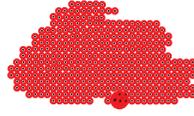
In order to facilitate the management to make arrangement for the meeting it would be appreciated if written confirmation of the shareholders participation at the meeting is conveyed to the Company's Secretary latest by 17th of September, 2019 through email at btmedia2009@gmail.com.

For further information please call @02-335006 or 335007 during office hours.

Chairperson
By the Order of the Board

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E-mail at : btmedia2009@gmail.com



The Chairman, Management and Staff of
KHOLONGCHHU HYDRO ENERGY LIMITED
WISH THE PEOPLE OF INDIA A JOYOUS
73RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

May the Sun of Peace, Prosperity and
Happiness Shine on the People of India.



KHOLONGCHHU HYDRO ENERGY LIMITED



Amen Bhutan Tours & Treks

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Our Team welcomes the Hon' ble Prime Minister of India ,
Shri Narendra Modi and his delegations to Bhutan

We are hopeful that with your excellency's visit, the bond of friendship
between Bhutan and India continue to grow from strength to strength.



Mr. Ranjit Tamang
Founder/ President



Mr. Lhakpa Tshering
Managing Director



Office Staff



Guests

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Farmers hoping for compensation for a damaged crop by windstorm in Phongmey

Sangay Rabten

The farmers of three chiwogs under Phongmey gewog are slightly relieved after gewog administration has submitted report of crop damaged assessment by windstorm to Dzongkhag administration. The farmers are hoping for at least some compensation from concern authorities.

A windstorm damaged around 45 acres of maize crop belonging to 87 households of three chiwogs of Thongrong, Yabrang and Phimsong on 12 August at around 2.30 pm. Yabrang is most

affected while there were minor damages in Lem and Shokang.

Rinzin Nmgay from Phimsong said that his hope for good harvest of crop is shattered. He said "I have worked hard till this time, guarding from wild animals and pesticides. This time maize was good and we the farmers were hoping for good yield. But unfortunately it is devastated by windstorm and now our hope for good harvest is shattered." He said that their means of living is only from farming but main crops like maize, chili and paddy are damaged. "Now our hope is

only if concern authorities can give us some compensation," he said.

Another farmer from same village, Chantong said that being a farmer, they rely on crops. He said that he bought seeds and worked tirelessly and was expecting for good harvest. He expressed "We don't know whether we will be compensated or not but at least we hope for that after office of the gewog agriculture extension assessed the damaged crops."

Tshogpa of Yabrang Chiwog Dorji Wangchuk said that he informed agriculture extension officer and gewog administration

about damaged crop. He said that farmers are in hopeless state and he did his best to help farmers informing gewog office. Tshogpa said that after assessment, farmers are hoping for compensation.

The Gewog Agriculture Extension Officer Norbu Jamtsho said that gewog staff went to the damaged area for assessment based on Gung and Thram number. They calculated cultivated area and then damaged area. The production calculation was done based on 2018-19 crop cut of Phongmey gewog which is 2728/kg per acre. The cost calculation

is Nu.13/kg as per the farm yield rate.

However, the agriculture extension officer said that there is no specific budget allocated for compensation for damaged crops by natural calamities. It should go from gewog to dzongkhag and then to Kidu office. Kidu office will assess the report and then only there would be compensation.

The total cultivated area is 93,547 acre and affected area is 48.94 acre. The estimated production loss is Nu 133,508.32 kg and estimated loss is Nu 1735,608.16. The total household affected is 125.

Young people need more platforms to display their talents

Lhakpa Tshering

For young people in the country, academic and nonacademic skills are equally important. They need more platforms that allow them to express their talents beyond academic skills.

That was what the young people said at the first dialogue between the young Members of Parliament (MP) and the youth on the international youth day on 12 August. The event brought young parliamentarians and youths closer together.

For the first time, the youth had a powerful platform to engage in dialogue with decision makers on development issues most important to them at the panel discussion themed "Tapping the Potential: Youth and Young Parliamentarians".

The youth representatives expressed interest in being positive members of their community to become more engaged with opportunities. Not just academically, but other skills. Nevertheless, youth faces many challenges.

Dorji Tenzin, a recent graduate from the College of Language and Culture Studies at Taktse

in Trongsa, said that the education systems need more opportunities to demonstrate their talents and a supportive environment to help them find their way.

He said that the youths are multi-talented but the government has little room for young people to showcase their skills. "That is our challenge," he said, adding the government needs to create the environment that helps their skills to flourish.

Young people have the vision and energy to lead the country. They want better opportunities which allow them to be groomed, showcase their talents and to shape the future they want.

Palden Tshering Yangchen of Drukgyel central in Paro, this year's golden youth award recipient feels that young people must be at the heart of development agenda. "Many people succeeded with their own capabilities and potential," she said. "But youths are not provided with resources."

If the government creates dignity platforms to display their potentials and capabilities rather than academics, she said,

Bhutan will develop like other countries. "Give the youth a platform and they will lead," she said.

She went on to say that there are some platforms for youth but without dignity. "Young people showcase their talents but not appreciated," she said. "Many of us do not appreciate others talents."

To help youth succeed in the digital age, Sonam Tenzin Wangchuk of ELC high school in Thimphu said that every youth should be given the similar platforms. He is the first runner-up of the golden youth award 2019.

In the era, where education is based on foundation of technology, he said, the youths give arms to the skills and the knowledge to use all this new technology. "We can provide the youths with resources and skills," he said, adding to develop their passions and interest in such fields.

Sharing the barriers and challenges to get the skills needed for the job they want, he said that the absence of interesting career paths is one of the key factors for a young person who is passionate about a certain field of work.

The policy actors play a

role in encouraging youth to explore and showcase their talents. With these issues in mind, the policy-makers take the youth voice into consideration when framing programs for young people.

The National Council member of Chhukha, Sangay Dorji said that it is important to give young people ways to develop their talents and give them a way to express it. He said, "Such similar events are needed to conduct in all dzongkhags."

He also said that parliamentarians become a team in making differences for the lives of every youth. "I am here to listen from the youth and part of the solutions," he said. "I will take back to the parliament and discuss with my seniors."

One way to support the youth is to give them a platform to voice their opinion in all the spheres of governance, corporate and social policy. It would help to reflect on current political affairs and their ideas for a better democracy.

Exploring the role of young people in the transition, MP Passang Dorji (PhD) said the best way to harness the potential for

the youth is to give them platforms. He said, "The first way to move forward is to institutionalize a platform where parliamentarians and youth meet periodically."

He said that the responsible agencies must take up an institutionalization where parliamentarians and youth come together to discuss the pertinent youth issues. "The youth issues are best known by our youths," he said. "We must keep young people engaged as much as possible."

Having a huge number of young people in the country, he said there is need to give young people a voice in making the national youth development strategy. "We lack a national holistic youth development strategy," he said.

The young parliamentarians and youth representatives discussed a range of topical issues, including the education quality, cultural, youth unemployment, youth and technology, cultural identity and values, social media, climate change and politics among others.



SDF to finance the purchase new ATR42-600

Sangey Rabten

Druk Air will buy new ATR42-600 aircraft and it is expected to reach in September. It will replace the present aircraft ATR42-500. The Ministry of Finance, SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and Drukair Corporation Limited signed a US\$13 million (M) loan agreement to finance the purchase of Drukair ATR aircraft on Tuesday.

The SDF will finance 70 percent of the aircraft cost amounting USD 13M where Drukair will finance the remaining 30 percent. The loan is for ten years, two years as grace period at four percent interest rate on quarterly payment. The amount quarterly payment is not yet drawn.

The purchase of aircraft project for Drukair Corporation Limited in Bhutan was approved by the 30th SDF Board of Directors meeting in December 2018.

The financing of ATR 42-600 with US\$ 13M is the first loan under the economic and infrastructure



SDF has committed a total of USD 31.48 M for ongoing and future projects in Bhutan.

windows of SDF.

Present during signing ceremony, Finance Minister Namgay Tshering said "This is the first of its kind for Royal Government of Bhutan and SDF to have a loan sanctioned under SDF's Economic Window." He thanked SDF for the generous support, which includes over US\$32M for ongoing and future projects in Bhutan. The minister said that new aircraft will give new potential to explore additional routes, promoting regional integration and connectiv-

ity. While thanking SDF for generous support, "We look for similar support in future" he said.

The CEO of SDF, Dr Sunil Motiwal said that signing of loan agreement is historic in the history of Bhutan and SDF. He said "SDF financing would help Drukair Corporation Limited extend aviation connectivity with Bangladesh, India and Nepal and thus, providing economic connectivity and regional integration." He said that the project comes under the trade and economic sector

of the Economic Window of SDF. SDF has three funding windows: Social, Economic and Infrastructure. "It is a milestone to promote tourism and confident that it will create positive impact on trade and economy."

CEO of Drukair, Tandi Wangchuk said "Drukair is grateful to RGoB, Royal Monetary Authority and SDF for financing the replacement of the existing ATR 42-500 with state of art ATR 42-600, which will enhance safety and reliability of operations both in the domestic and regional sectors. This complements our plans and efforts in expanding and enhancing the fleet. The new ATR with enhanced features will join our fleet within this September and the new additional Airbus A 320 Neo will join in first quarter of 2020," said Drukair CEO Tandi Wangchuk.

Though the new aircraft is equal in size with old one having 40 seaters, have improved technology with Safety, Standard and Service (three SSS). It

is equipped with sky vision featuring Glass Cockpit which will aid pilots to navigate through the clouds with the help of infrared and real time GPS. The 16-year-old generation ATR will be sold back to the manufacturing company in France according to the CEO.

SDF has committed a total of USD 31.48 M for ongoing and future projects in Bhutan. Of the total, SDF has funded over 10 projects in Bhutan worth USD 8.48M under its Social Window as grants, USD 13M under the Economic Window for purchase of Druk Air ATR aircraft and allocated USD 10M under Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) funding scheme of SDF.

The SAARC Development Fund's Social Window has supported a total of 10 projects in Bhutan worth USD 8.48M of which seven project were successfully completed.

ICT policies, regulation discuss in 19th APT policy and regulatory forum

Sangey Rabten

The 19th Asia Pacific Telecommunity (ATP) Policy and Regulatory Forum concluded on Friday which brought ICT policy makers and the regulators to discuss telecommunications and ICT policy and regulatory issues that are of common interest in the region.

Participants from the region discussed emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, advancement in 5G, big data, digitization and cross border data transfer to bring positive impact in the region.

These were discussed with the aim to achieve a more harmonized regulatory environment in the region.

The Secretary General of APT, Arewan Haorangsi said that forum is to discuss ICT issues and

bring attention of the regulators. She said "It is to converse regulatory policy to make Asia Pacific digital region with digital adoption."

She also added that the strategic plan of the APT for 2018-2020 focused within the five pillars; connectivity, innovation, trust, capacity building and partnership. It is a basis for ATP's 2021-2023 goal.

This is line with the Singapore Statement, ICT ministerial meeting held few months back. It was learnt that Bhutan could not attend the meeting though it is a member of APT.

Minister of Information and Communication (MoIC) Karma Donnen Wangdi at the opening of forum said that Royal Government of Bhutan recognize ICT as key component in the develop-

ment. He said that Bhutan has immensely benefited from APT in capacity building and technical assistance since it became a member in 1998.

The minister expressed APT will rebuild and rephrase ICT knowledge in society. He informed the participants that government will urge the local partners to continue to collaborate in ICT development.

In one of the plenary discussions, Digital Innovation and Creativity, Digital Community and Digital Capacity Building and Partnership were discussed besides keynote presentation of Asia ICT ministerial meeting of 2019.

The chief planning officer of ICT of MoIC, Hemlal Subedi said that Bhutan support some commitment made by APT since it has numerous

positive impact in human development like in sectors of education, health and economy.

He said that Bhutan will become digitally literate which will lead to higher Foreign Direct Investment, Gross Domestic Product and Gross National Happiness. He said, "Bhutan will be guided by Singapore Statement in terms of having draft of master plan in implementation of telecommunication service."

The chief planning officer added that APT will significantly help in internet price reduction and curtailing procurement expenses.

However, he also pointed out negative implications by social media to youth and expenditure on mobile data.

The other impacts he raised was that APT declaration seems heavy and extremely ambitious to

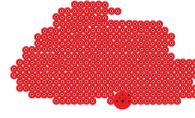
Bhutan corresponding to the size and geographical terrain of the country and again where economy scale does not tantamount to required investment.

Commenting on 5G, the officer said that Bhutan need to work lot where even 4G is not widely available.

On capacity building, he said that emergency communication service is already in place during the disaster and there is also ICT response team. There is plan to frame guidelines for ICT through revised media standards.

His take away message was that Bhutan will have to wait to implement Singapore Statement until economy becomes viable.

The policy and regulatory forum was organized ATP and hosted by Ministry of Information and Communication of Bhutan. It has 38 members.



Tengye Lyonpo (Chairman), management and the staff of
Mangdechhu Hydropower Plant

would like to welcome the Indian Prime Minister
His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi to Bhutan.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank him for further
strengthening the unique bond of friendship
between the two countries.

Wish you a very happy stay.

