



ZHEMGANG MONTHLY

FROM STEPS TO LEAPS

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CONTENTS

- Page 1 - From Dzongda's Desk
 - PSL Update
- Page 2 - Hands on training on Bee keeping
- Page 3 - Office in focus - Forest
- Page 4 - Office in focus - Forest (cont..)
- Page 5 - Words of Wisdom
- Page 6 - My stay in Bhutan
- Page 7 - New Year Celebration
 - Month that was
 - Youth Walk
- Page 8 - PSL Update (cont...)
 - Duenmang Tshachu visit
 - Shingkar Gewog
- Page 9 - Yebilabtsa Hospital
- Page 10 - Worls Aids day
 - Funny Facts
 - Newsletter Team



Reception of Honble Secretary DDC



Civil Service Award Gold Medal

FROM DZONGDA'S DESK



The last syllable of recorded time of 2018 has come to an end signifying the beginning of yet another momentous year ahead. What happened during the last month of this year will propel and steer the entire course of our voyage for next five years.

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu convened its fifth session and endorsed the draft of 12th Five Year Plan (FYP) of the Dzongkhag and submitted it to the parliament for its scrutiny and consideration in its impending First Session of the Third Parliament.

This developmental plan is the manifestation and culmination of needs and aspirations of the people because it has been sieved through the consultation and deliberation protocols and processes of local government, institutions and systems. The size and scope of the Dzongkhag development plans has been steadily increasing and changing its focus and accentuation over various FYPs. In 9th FYP, the total outlay was Nu. 891.611million only and it increased to Nu. 1,292.066 million in 10th FYP. Further, the outlay in 11th FYP amounted to Nu. 3,015.706 million and in the current plan the capital budget alone is estimated to be Nu. 2,140.092 million.

The 12th FYP plan of Zhemgang Dzongkhag is aimed to focus on four thrust areas of building roads and bridges, enhancing electricity & telecommunication coverage, promoting agricultural enterprise and cottage and small scale industries and developing community based tourism. The 11th FYP has seeded the 12th FYP and the new government has taken the reins of governance. The confluence of these three major milestones presents great hope and optimism in the next five years in bringing positive changes in development of the landscape of Khengri-Nam-Sum.

PSL update

Ever since the introduction of Priority Sector Lending (PSL), the Dzongkhag reviewed 75 applications out of which 63 were approved comprising 57 Agriculture CSI Projects and 6 Non-Agriculture CSIs. From the 63 approved projects, the Bank of Bhutan Ltd received 57 applications and Bhutan National Bank Ltd received 6 applications out of which, 4 projects were successful in securing loans. One project was withdrawn by the client himself and 23 proposals were rejected by the Financial Institutions.

.....continued in page no.8

Hands on Training on Bee Keeping at Buli Village under Nangkhor Gewog

The National Highland Research and Development Centre, Bumthang and RLDC, Zhemgang in collaboration with Dzongkhag Livestock Sector imparted the basic beekeeping training to 25 youths and housewives of Buli village, under Nangkhor gewog, Zhemgang Dzongkhag from 19th to 25th December 2018. The objective of the training was to introduce the modern moveable frame hive (Newton .B hive) for local bee rearing for honey production. The training also aimed to produce niche products for income generation and to create the rural employment opportunities for the youths in future. At the end of the training, all the trainees were provided with basic equipments and materials to kick start the rearing of local honey bees. For up-scaling of bee keeping, Dzongkhag Livestock Sector already had a budget of Nu 0.500 million in the first year of 12th plan. If the program escalates well, at least 10 kgs of honey from every colony is expected annually. As of now, the sector has established beekeeping program under Shingkhar, Goshing and Nangkhor gewogs. Through such trainings, the sector hopes to instigate the interested youths to leap into large scale local bee beekeeping in modern hives as well. The added advantages for such project of bee keeping under the Dzongkhag are its pristine forest coverage with lots of flora for the bees. The training was funded by GEF-LDCF with support from UNDP.



Contributed by Livestock Sector

Back ground:

Zhemgang Forest Division was established on July 28, 2003. Prior to that Zhemgang Division was under the administrative control of Bumthang Forest Division. The Division head office is located within Zhemgang town.

Zhemgang Forest Division (ZFD) and Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) covers an area of 1518.42 km² covering seven geogs under Zhemgang dzongkhag. The ZFD shares boundary with Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) to the South, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park (JSWNP) in the West and Phrumsengla National Park (PNP) in the North and Pemagatshel district in the East. Biological corridor number 04 that connects Phrumsengla National Park and Royal Manas National Park falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the Division. With JSWNP and RMNP having highest tiger density amongst protected areas in the country, ZFD forms heart of the potential tiger landscape and offers greater scope of population dispersion to PNP and Pemagatshel Forest Division.

Zhemgang Forest Division (ZFD) has a very rich cultural and biological diversity. Tiger, Golden Langur and white-bellied heron are some of the important fauna species found in the division. The National Tiger Survey 2014-15 reported the presence of 17 tiger individuals in the division including Trongsa Dzongkhag that is now under the administrative jurisdiction of Bumthang Forest Division. Currently, ZFD expects about 8-10 individuals of tigers occurring in the areas. The national tiger report also indicated major signs and images captured along the biological corridor No. 4. This biological corridor can be very vital for gene flow from source site (RMNP and JSWNP) to sink area (PNP) in the long run. In addition, ZFD is home to around 30 mammal species, 232 species of vascular plants and more than 200 bird species. Zhemgang Division is rich in biodiversity and 94.17% (LCM 2016) of the land use type is covered by forest. The great variation in elevation range contributes to its biodiversity hub.

The following forest types are found within the Division:

- Tropical broad leaved forests.
- Subtropical broad leaved and Chir forests.
- Sub-temperate and temperate broad leaved and conifer forests.
- Conifer forests
- Alpine scrub and pastures

Critically endangered avifauna: White-bellied Heron

Endangered fauna: Tiger, Red Panda, Wild Dog, Musk Deer, Golden Langur, Capped Langur, Asian Elephant

Endangered avifauna: Great Hornbill, Rufous Necked Hornbill, Chestnut partridge, Wards Tragopan, Beautiful Nuthatch,

Endangered flora: Sapria (holoparasitic flowering plant related to Rafflesia), Spathoglottis jetsuniae, numerous ferns and orchids.

Ongoing Activities:

Some of the ongoing activities of the Division are as follows:

1. Operational Plan of Wangdigang FMU, Kikhar, Malaya & Goling Working Schemes to meet commercial timber, monitoring of plantation, collection of NWFPs, regeneration survey, cable line survey, etc
2. Operation Plan for Community Forests and NWFP groups for sustainable harvesting of forest produces and Non Wood Forest Produce
3. Operational Plan for management of forest areas outside FMUs (Local Forest Management Plan), to meet the demand of local people or non-members of CFs.
4. Management of Biological Corridor and timely monitoring of the movement of wild animals along Biological Corridor No.4 including Big cats such as Tiger.
5. Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict by adopting zero poaching strategy and SMART system

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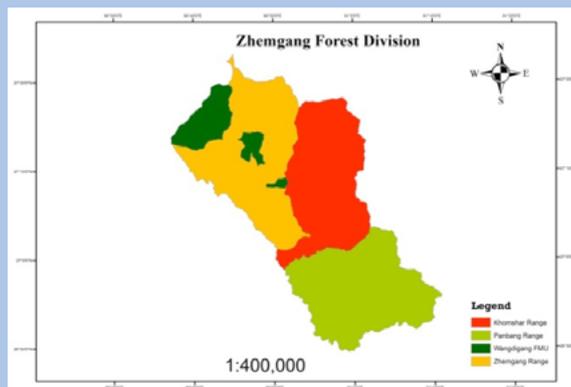
Office in Focus Forest Division .. (Continued)

Challenges:

- i. Infrastructure
- ii. Rugged terrain
- iii. Funding

Opportunities:

- i. Eco-Tourism potential
- ii. Rich biodiversity
- iii. Bird watching



Roles & Function:

- * Participate in drawing policy, acts and rules of the forestry sector
- * Prepare and implement Annual Work Plans as per the Five Year Plan programs with proper monitoring and progress reporting to the department.
- * Act as focal office to inform and address all forestry development plans and issues arising out of it in local development forums such as DYT and GYT
- * Prepare Operational Plans for Forest Management Units in collaboration with FRMD and implement the FMU management plans as per the plan prescription and code of forest management practices.
- * To prepare and implement Management Plans for Forest areas outside FMU systems for sustainable management of the forest area of Gewog in order to meet the timber demands of the local people.
- * Liaise with FPED, SFED, WCD, FRMD, NRED, WMD and FIMS for information and technical expertise in the implementation of any programs and activities as required and found necessary in the field.
- * Issue forestry clearance for land allotment, road construction, transmission line alignment, lease of GRF land for quarry, etc.
- * Backstopping of all forestry plans implemented by other agencies namely Dzongkhag forestry sector, Parks, RNR RC, NRDCL, Hydropower Projects, etc.
- * Act as platform for co-ordination and linkage for forestry plans and activities in the region.
- * Monitor and regulate the proper utilization of forest resources through timely patrolling and cross checks.
- * Ensure fair implementation of legal provisions of Act and Rules for forest offences.
- * Management of biological corridors and critical watersheds.
- * Implement land and soil conservation activities, anti-poaching, and resource allocation to the public.
- * Implementation of human wildlife conflict strategy as relevant to the division.
- * Any special task assigned by the department from time to time.

Contributed by Zhemgang Forest Division

111th National Day

On this joyous and auspicious occasion of the celebration of the 111th National Day, we the Rabdey, Civil Servants, Business Community and the people of

KHENGRIG NAMSUM

would like to join the Nation in offering our heartfelt felicitation and humble prayers for the ever lasting peace and prosperity in the kingdom
We solemnly rededicate our service to the Tsa-wa-sum



111th National Day
Samtse,
December 17, 2018

“...our public servants will fail in their duty if they do not learn from past mistakes and correct them, if they are unreceptive to feedback, if they lack accountability, if they are unresponsive to new ideas and solutions, if they have poor communication and coordination, or if organizations expand and multiply without direction or coherent vision. In this case, even our best intentions will bear no results. Instead, all we will have are missed opportunities and a debilitating waste of time and resources.”

“...our greatest wealth in human resources is epitomised by our civil servants who serve in every Dzongkhag, Gewog, and village, and should know intimately the most pressing issues, and the concerns and aspirations of the people. At the same time, they are well travelled around the world, so we expect them to be well informed and aware of the outside world. They should be up-to-date with advancements in technology and new practices, and be able to use this knowledge for the benefit of our country.”

“... it is important that the civil servants, equipped with immense knowledge, skills, and experience, render their unstinted support to the government’s endeavour aimed at improving the welfare of the people.”

“...our most important long term national goals include: enhancing our security and sovereignty; promoting our unique traditions and cultural heritage; conserving our environment; promoting peaceful and harmonious coexistence with other nations, and enhancing the reputation and national identity of our glorious nation of Palden Drukpa.”

“...we are a small country – a country like no other. Therefore, we are in a position to be more efficient and more effective than others. What others can do in a decade, we can and should accomplish in a few years. What others manage in years, we can and should achieve in months.”

“...it always must be our constant endeavour to perform better, carry out our tasks with greater efficiency, effectiveness and grace, and become exceptional in the world.”

Compiled by Dechen Pema Yangden

My stay in Bhutan

My fifteen years stay in Bhutan was the greatest achievement and happiness that I ever dreamt of in my life. I didn't confront any illness during those long happy days. I believe that it was due to clean environment; fresh air, water and free from sound pollution where people enjoyed long life expectancy. It is one of the nature's gifts to this nation and people.

People of this country are kind and caring by nature. They help and care even to the unknown person. It was my experience that when I was travelling from Zhemgang to my home town, I was stuck at Ossey block. Though I didn't know any of the passengers, they voluntarily carried my luggage and more over provided me with food and shelter. This incident connected me with Bhutanese more like a brotherhood.

All the leaders and associates where I worked were cooperative and supportive. All the people understood and helped in any possible ways they could. There were no ego clashes between juniors and seniors. They worked and shared the achievements together. I enjoyed the team cooperation to the fullest during my working days in Bhutan.

I learnt many things from my leaders and co-workers. I have learned and updated many more in the field of using ICT, management from Principal and friends particularly in the field of IT.

Teachers are highly respected in Bhutan. As a teacher I am fully satisfied to see my students working in different sectors at officer levels. They respect me as their teacher and provide helping hand as and when I need.

My greatest achievement is when my school held second position in National Science Olympiad Exhibition in 2017. I as a Head of Science Department (HOD) was proud to have cooperative science colleagues who are willing to work extra hours to bring such a great achievement to the school. It all happened because of full support rendered by principal and science department teachers.

Lastly, I would like to say few words that I have noticed here in Bhutan. I noticed most of the people are not concerned about their future savings. They don't realize about the consequences of poor financial management. They throw lots of parties and lead lavish life ignoring the future. It's important to enjoy but saving for future is important too.

Not all but many young girls get married at very young age. They become mothers before the age of 25 and when they don't have proper earnings, their husband leave them and have to raise their child on their own. That was the little sad part I had noticed in Bhutan. If the youth are guided and provided proper education, there will be tremendous change in future.

~ Alagesan. M

Bidding Farewell to Mr Alagsen. M after 12 years service at YCS.



New year celebration

As we bid farewell to 2018, we welcomed 2019 with a celebration at Berti Eco Lodge where we spent the night of 31st December with the staff of Dzongkhag administration and regional offices. A khuru tournament was also played between Dzongkhag Administration and Regional.



Month that was

3 - 4 Dec - Dzongkhag Tshogdu

15 Dec - Civil Service Medal Awarded

17 Dec - National Day Celebration at ZCS, Lower Campus.

28 Dec - DDC Awareness program - by Hon'ble Secretary

29 Dec - Youth Walk

31 Dec - New Years Picnic at Berti Eco Camp

Youth Walk

A Youth Walk was organized by Youth Centre, Zhemgang on 29th December, 2018 from Dungbi turning till Gompong Chorten. The program concluded with lunch and cultural entertainment program at Gompong Chorten.

Participants also cleaned the litter as they walked the stretch of 18 kms.



The first loan was sanctioned by BNB Ltd on 15 August 2018 to a 21 year old youth from Phangkhar gewog for the establishment of wood based Industry in Tingtibi. The second, third and fourth loans were sanctioned by Bank of Bhutan Ltd on 5th October 2018 to a 55 year old farmer from Trong Gewog for the establishment of agriculture farm business at Zurphel under Trong Gewog, on 13 November 2018 to a 33 year old farmer from Trong Gewog for the establishment of dairy farm at Dungbi under Trong Gewog and on 27 November 2018 to a 44 year old farmer from Repati under Ngangla Gewog for establishment of semi-commercial dairy farm respectively.

The majority of PSL applications are for agriculture-related projects with the highest concentration in primary production. Out of the 63 projects approved by the Dzongkhag until December 2018, 90% are agricultural CSI projects (dominated by Ginger, Cardamom production and livestock related activities). In terms of demographic profile, 41% are in the age group of 31-40 years followed by 23% in the 21-30 years age group. While 36% are above 40 years. Gender wise, 27% are female and 73% are male. All the Projects are clustered around similar ideas while proponents are all individuals. Close to half of the projects that were rejected by the financial institutions were on account of bad CIB records of the applicants, existing loans with other banks, lack of market and due to off season.

However, with RMA's enhanced advocacy & monitoring, the diversity in the business proposal is increasing and gaining momentum.

Contributed by PSL Focal Kinzang Wangmo

Reports on Dunmang Tshachu Visit

Under the guidance of Dasho Dzongdag, Zhemgang, a team comprising of Dzongrab, District Health Officer, Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist and Menpa from Yebilaptsa hospital visited Deunmang Tshachu on 20th December, 2018 to create awareness on the following ;

HIV / Aids, Tuberculosis, Suicide prevention, Teenage pregnancy, Domestic violence, Alcohol Harm Reduction and Benefits of Tshachu.

Many people from all walks of life from various dzongkhags had come to reap benefits from the Tshachu. Such congregation was ideal for advocating on the various health related. Session opened by Dasho Dzongrab with welcoming all the participants and highlighted on very purpose of their visit. Dasho expressed the concern about the health and social issues on aforementioned topics.

Contributed by Health Sector



Gewog in Focus - Shingkar

BRIEF HISTORY OF GEWOG

Shingkar is one of the Gewogs of the Zhemgang Dzongkhag bordered by Sengor Gewog of Mongar Dzongkhag in the east, Bardo Gewog in the south, Nangkor Gewog in the west and Chumey and Ura Gewog of Bumthang in the North. The Gewog is administered from the Gewog Centre established at Shingkar approximately about 120 km from the Dzongkhag Headquarter. The Gewog lies at an elevation ranging from 1000 to 4000masl which falls in an area having micro-climatic differences, characterized by south facing slopes much drier and warmer than the north facing slopes having different vegetation pattern with recess close to tributaries are moist and receives limited sunshine. The northern portion of the Gewog falls under the Phrumsengla National Park. There are seven villages which have derived their names either based on the beliefs, observation, landscape, or the times of settlement. The Gewog has approximately about 309km² of area where 77% is covered by forest.

ZANGLING : Zangling is derived from combined word of 'zang' and 'ling' meaning 'land of copper'. A hollow stone considered to be 'nye' 'a sacred place', located south of present village, gives a sound of copper drum when it is beaten.

THAJONG : is last of the entire villages in the locality to be inhabited by the people from Nimshong and Zangling village. 'Thajong' literally means 'last of the land or place'.

NIMSHONG : village receives very early sunrise after dawn compared to other villages in the vicinity. The name therefore, was derived from term 'Nimjong' meaning land or place of sun.

RADHI : is possibly derived its name from the sardonic term brag 'dod meaning attachment to the landscape they occupied, surrounded by crag (Brag in Khengkha is cliffs) on three sides (north, south and east).

SHINGKCHAR : derived its name from 'Zhingkham' ('abode of peace). The Village has two important sacred sites of Guru Rinpoche (Kuje Nye and Tingkar Nye). Historically, Shingkar village occupied a significant place in the history of the Khengrig namsum, where village (Shingkar Trong) housed the office of Dungpa appointed during the reign of 2nd Druk Gyalpo to administer the region until the position of Gup was created.

WAMLING : was known as 'Womailing' meaning 'land of milk'. 'Womailing' could have changed to Wamling due to change in pronunciation. Village also possess significant site, Tangtsho (Lake) located about half an hour walk from the Wamling Tshokiling Dratshang.

THRISA : This village was first occupied by settlers from Tungalbi, presently under Bardo Gewog as the new tax bearer (Threlpa) to the government. Thus, the newly occupied land came to be known as 'Threlsa', meaning 'Land for Tax', later it has changed to 'Thrisa'. A new village located on the landscape which appeared like a throne came to be known as 'Thrisar'.

Contributed by Mohan Subba

Brief History of Yebilabtsa Hospital

Perched on the hilly area and overlooking the beautiful valley of Tingtibi, the Yebilaptsa Hospital was initially established as Leprosy Mission Hospital in 1981. Dr. Nor Tshering took over the hospital from Mission as the first national doctor in the same year.

In 1991, the construction of 40 bedded hospital began with the funding from the Leprosy Mission with Mr. John Stedman as the Project Manager. It was completed in July 1994 and was handed over to the Royal Government of Bhutan. Lyonpo Tshewang T. Rigzin, then the honourable Deputy Minister of Health and Education, graced the auspicious inaugural ceremony. There's no documentation about the exact date about when the hospital started functioning as the Regional Referral Hospital but it probably started from 1997.

Two staff quarters of three units each, a doctor's quarter, laundry unit, a garage and parking space with the approached road to hospital were gradually added with the establishment of the hospital. In July 1999, a medical store constructed by Ms. Wangyel Construction, Zhemgang with Nu.0.577 million from ISDP funding was taken over by the hospital on 19th July, 1999. Andheri Helfi Organization from Germany provided Nu.6.00 million for the edifice of Eye building which was constructed by Ms. Nima Construction with Ms. Gyeltshen Consultancy as supervisor and later handed over to the hospital. The hospital management on 19th June, 1999 took over the patient guest house constructed by Ms. Druk Phuensum Construction with a budget of Nu.0.737 million from the ISDP funding.

As of today, the hospital campus has an area of 14.53 acres striding adjacent to Yebilaptsa Central School. The 40 bedded hospital has the capacity to accommodate up to 60 patients. There is no other funding except RGoB till date. 64 staffs holding various designations are currently working in the hospital.



*Contributed by Tshering Lham
Administrative officer
Yebilaptsa Hospital*

World AIDS Day

Date & Venue: 1st December 2018 at Trong Geog Office
Target Group: DoR staff, Business Communities, Civil servants and Communities of Trong Geog
Zhemgang Dzongkhag

World AIDS Day is observed on 1st December throughout the world. In Bhutan, Ministry of Health observed World AIDS Day in Samdrup Jongkhar. Similarly, Zhemgang Dzongkhag conducted the event at Trong Geog office. More than hundred people gathered at the venue to mark the day. Hon'ble DASHO DZONGDAG graced the occasion as the chief guest for the auspicious day. Participants from various places gathered at 9 am in the hall. Gups from Trong and Shingkhar geogs followed by health staff received Hon'ble DASHO DZONGDAG and was ushered to a hall.

Health Official highlighted the importance of day and provided brief background on HIV status in SEARO and Bhutan. They were told about the issues and challenges for early detection of HIV and the stigma prevailing in the community. Participants were also informed of advantages of knowing the status, that positive cases would be treated with antiviral therapy at early stage.



DASHO DZONGDAG had opening remarks on the occasion and emphasized the importance of the day. He coined that people should understand and disseminate information on HIV and AIDS to every community member. Participants were informed to undergo HIV screening upon completion of observation of the day.

Mrs. Tashi Wangmo Health Assistant of Zhemgang BHU made a detail presentation about the history, mode of transmission and prevention. Participants were advocated to understand and to practice ABC (Abstinence, Be faithful and to use Condom). She also demonstrated the detail procedure of condom use. Day long program also highlighted on Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Contributed by Health Sector



Funny Facts | Mobile Phones

- Your mobile phone has more computing power than the computers used for the Apollo 11 moon landing.
- Apple sold 340,000 iPhones per day in 2012.
- Mobile phones have 18 times more bacteria than toilet handles.
- Scientists have developed a way of charging mobile phones using urine.
- The first mobile phone call was made in 1973 by Martin Cooper, a former Motorola inventor.
- Nomophobia is the fear of being without your mobile phone or losing your signal.
- The average person unlocks his or her smartphone 110 times each day.
- Mobile Phone Throwing is an official sport in Finland.
- More people have died by taking selfies in 2015 than by shark attacks.
- Phubbing is a new word meaning -ignoring your friends in favour of your phone.
- Mobile phone industry is the fastest growing industry in the world.
- Hongkong has a population of 7.2 million, while the number of active mobile subscribers is 17.4 million.

Contributed by Mohan Subba

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