



ZHEMGANG MONTHLY

FROM STEPS TO LEAPS

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"Zhemgang beckons you..."

As I was preparing to embark on my new journey to Zhemgang from the capital, many friends and relatives shared with subtle tone of discouragement that Zhemgang is an isolated place and least developed Dzongkhag. However, I started my journey into an unknown domain with great sense of hope and optimism knowing that every

challenge is an opportunity.

Immediately, after my arrival here, I conducted a swift familiarization tour scanning through all eight Gewogs, schools, monasteries, communities and towns within a week. Our officers and staff, recalls that just few years back, it took at least one week to cover one Gewog walking through leech infested jungles, inching up and down the contours of mountains and valleys of *Kheng-rig-namsum*.

Today, the trails that connected communities and Choetens that served as milestones along the path have outlived their purposes. Zhemgang is marching through threshold of developmental path with great velocity and it is bound for transformational change. The edifice of Zhemgang is built upon the strong foundation of human, social, cultural, environmental, infrastructural capital, critical for its growth, development and vitality. At the same time, many stones need to be unturned in reaching the unreached and connecting the unconnected.

This year, we are witnessing the confluence of three important milestones in our nation's history, the completion of 11th Five Year Plan, formulation of 12th Five Year Plan and the conduct of Third Parliamentary elections presenting us with great opportunity to serve the people of Kheng-rig-namsum with renewed energy, dedication and loyalty. The runway is ready, engine is running and all we need is to take off and make the journey joyful, safe and meaningful to the people.

To connect or not to connect, we are publishing this monthly bulletin- '**ZHEMGANG MONTHLY-From Steps to Leaps**' to mark the confluence of these three significant milestones, setting strategic direction and momentum. This bulletin is aimed at informing and sharing our plans and events, serving as the platform to publicize our nature and community based eco-tourism attractions and finally in enhancing academic and intellectual stimulation of our people by encouraging them to contribute articles for this monthly issue. I commend our editorial team for their time and effort in making our maiden issue a success. We wish our readers a happy reading and hope that the general view of Zhemgang being isolated place will gradually fade away and be tempted to visit us because it beckons you.

MONTH THAT WAS

3rd August

New Dzongdag joins Dzongkhag Administration.

4th August

Monsoon Departmental Football Tournament kicks off.

10th August

Dasho Dzongdag met with Business Community of Zhemgang.

12th August

All the Staff of Dzongkhag, Regional and Community came together for the mass cleaning of Zhemgang Town.

13th - 20th August

Dasho Dzongdag visits all the eight gewogs.

24th August

Twin waterfall at Panbang gets a facelift with lighting facilities.

NEWS



Zhemgang Departmental Monsoon Football Tournament, an annual Dzongkhag event kicked off on 4th August 2018, with opening graced by our new Dasho Dzongdag. Played for a month and a day, between 15 teams from various departments and corners of dzongkhag. The final was played on 5th September between Sherig FC and Tingtibi FC. Both the teams reached the finals by playing extra time and

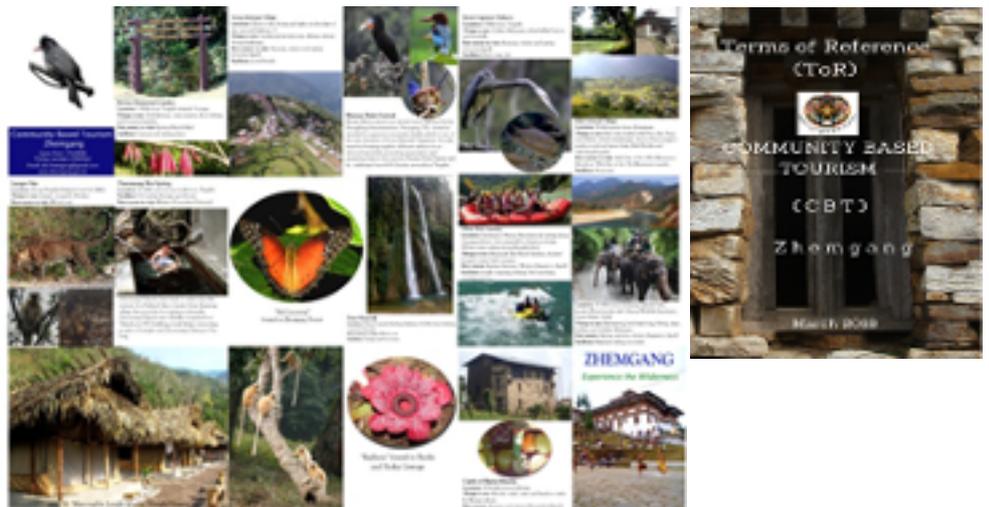


The winners' trophy was lifted by Tingtibi FC which also ended with penalty shootout. Matches were very exciting with huge crowd of spectators, young and old, students and public, sometimes in rain and often under the hot scorching sun. During the final, an exhibition match was played between the ladies team from Tingtibi and Zhemgang. The tournament was organized by **MSTF-** (Multi Sectoral Task Force) and **Zhemgang Sports Association** keeping in mind the benefits of sports and physical activities. It was played in the Football ground of Zhemgang Central School, Lower Campus. The crowd will soon be gathering and cheering for another tournament for veteran players that is going to take place in the following month.

-Contributed by Mohan Subba

EXPLORING ZHEMGANG DZONGKHAG

Zhemgang Dzongkhag has enormous potential for eco-tourism development because of its rich bio-diversity. In view of this, the Dzongkhag Administration is collaborating with the Tourism Council of Bhutan and other potential funding agencies to accelerate development of new tourism products unique to the Dzongkhag and facilitate establishment of appropriate tourism infrastructure. Efforts are being made to identify suitable sites for eco-camps, eco-lodges, bird watching sites and conduct feasibility assessment of home stays in the selected villages to ensure that the benefits of tourism trickle down to the communities.



As of now, Community Based Tourism Action Plan for the Dzongkhag is developed and published. As mandated by the action plan, a Community Based Tourism (CBT) Committee was formed and developed Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee. As an initial headway of the CBT, we have developed a brochure with its title **"Zhemgang: Experience the wilderness"**. The overall objective of the CBT is to better position the Dzongkhag as a sustainable tourism destination so that communities have direct employment and benefits from tourism to supplement their livelihood while conserving nature and preserving culture.

- Contributed by Thinley Jamtsho

PLACE OF INTEREST - TWIN WATERFALL

Name of the Place: Lelagang

Name of water: Lelagang Chhu

Gewog: Goshing

Location:

Along Gomphu - Panbang Highway

(7 KMs from Panbang towards Pantang)

Facilities: Canopy, restroom and camping site.

- Contributed by Thinley Jamtsho

