



ZHEMGANG MONTHLY

FROM STEPS TO LEAPS

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Zhemgang Celebrates 50 Years of Bhutan - India Friendship at Panbang on Nov 11
Story in Page 2



When we reflect back into the history, Bhutan has come a very long way. Along the journey, she has moulded herself into a position that has provided stability and tranquillity in the country and for the people. And Bhutan owes a lot to India, for all the major and momentous developments that have taken place during the last few decades.

Diplomatic relations between Bhutan and India was established on 8th of January, 1968, with the appointment of a Special Officer of India to Bhutan. Since then, the alliance has seen a new dawn and celebration with every new collaboration. Given the significance of the age-old friendship, His Majesty The King was pleased to command the formation of the National Organizing Committee for Golden Jubilee Celebration to ensure the successful celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of Formal Diplomatic Relations between Bhutan and India. It is to be a year-long event, exceptionally meaningful for the government and people of the two countries which is to be cherished for all years to come.

For Zhemgang Dzongkhag, the celebration of 50 years between Bhutan and India was agreed to be celebrated in Panbang on 11 th November, coinciding with Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Great Fourth Druk Gyalpo. The key objectives of the celebration was to create awareness, generate goodwill, and promote the people-to- people contact at our local level while we pray for the long life of our Great Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

The carnival was an extravagant celebration where all the cultures and traditions of both the countries were incorporated. Right from the ushering of the guest with chipdrel to the ending of the day with Tashi Lebey. The guest list included all the important figures from the two districts of Bapeta and Baksa and from the Zhemgang dzongkhag with Dasho

Dzongda gracing the occasion as the chief guest. In his speech, Dasho highlighted the importance of the day. He said “*a good neighbor is far more valuable than a close relative who lives faraway*”. In our case India is not only our good neighbor but also our close relative. He opined that it is not only the geographical proximity that defines our relations. He further reiterated that, the celebration of golden jubilee of Bhutan-India relation is a great and rare opportunity to showcase to the world, the successful relationship between two neighbors and how two vastly asymmetrical countries can co-exist and prosper.

He also stressed that the foundation, growth, development, sustenance and success of special and unique relationship between Bhutan & India are attributable to the vision, wisdom and foresight of political leadership in India and our beloved monarchs. This spirit of love, friendship, peace and mutual co-existence at the leadership and government (national) levels must not only percolate to the local institutional levels but also foster the spirit and consciousness of this special relationship in the minds of our people in the communities of both countries.

The crowd got to witness the cultural dances of the neighboring states of Bapeta and Baksa along with traditional dances and chams of the country. The main attraction of the day which garnered vast audience was the food festival. Fifteen stalls were installed for displaying local cuisines from eight Gewogs. Bjoka Tsharzo Gongphel Tshogpa with assortment of cane and bamboo products, Khengrig Namsum Cooperative (KNC) presented processed food products like banana candy, potato chips and pickles.

A Dakphel women's group under Nangkor Gewogs had put on to show its turmeric and ginger powder products while Buli Farmers' group exhibited its gene bank seeds. Shingkar and Nangla Gewogs came up with non-wood forest products such as patsha, mochali, damroo, mushroom, woongpem, Kinmar, shingmar, bamboo shoots and ferns. Panbang Milk Processing Unit (MPU) showcased its dairy products while Nangla, Goshing, Phangkhar and Shingkar Gewogs vended fruits and vegetables. While the different types of cereals were demonstrated by all the Gewogs; Bardo, Goshing and Nangla Gewogs displayed local tengma, zaw, popcorn, cooked and roasted tubers, etc. Phangkhar and Nangla Gewogs netted worthy returns from sale of tongpa, locally brewed drinks which was presented in traditional bamboo containers.

The celebration was one of the significant event in the history of Zhemgang Dzongkhag as it not only celebrated the allegiance of the two countries but the event brought the local people for a common and profound reason and task. The celebration concluded successfully and further strengthened the cordial kinship between the two countries. The event would be forever embedded in the hearts of the people of both the nations for all times to come.

Contributed by Thinley Jamtsho

Menchu (Blessed Medicinal Spring Water)



Bhutanese have always believed in healing powers of the traditional medicines. One such medicinal treatment for various ailments is MENCHU. Located in a secluded area, the menchu under Zhemgang Dzongkhag is currently under the custody of Dangkhar Community Forest Committee. According to the people, the existence of the menchu is still unknown and it is believed that it has existed since four hundred years ago. There's none who can narrate the accurate and vivid background history about it. One story as passed on by the generations is that the MENCHU was created by the famous Lam Zhang. Blessed holy water miraculously appeared after Lam pierced the rock with his finger using his spiritual powers. The holy water is said to cure many sickness. Likewise, different people have different stories to recount but there is no validation or documentations to any of the stories.

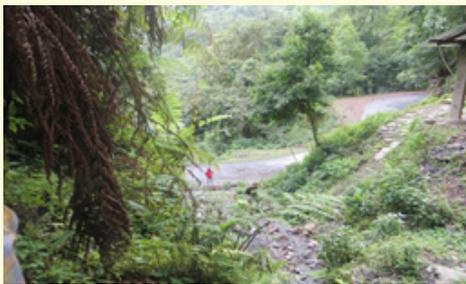
Place Name : Menchhu gang (approximately 8kms away from Zhemgang- Trongsa highway)
(10metres above the highway)

Gewog : Trong

Dzongkhag : Zhemgang

Altitude : 1594 meters /5231f above sea level

Temperature : 17°C



Laboratory tests were done at the site and it has been found with zero chlorine content in it. It has low health risk and safe to drink.

MENCHU is recommended for the patients with;
Joint pains, Arthritis, Rheumatism, Gout, Cervical, Spondylosis, Varicose veins, Sprain, Muscle dystrophy, Spasm Backache, Paralysis, Swellings & Gastritis.

*Contributed by Sonam Tobgyel
Sr Menpa
Traditional Medicine Services
Zhemgang B&U I*

BIRDS HELP IN SUSTAINING OUR ENVIRONMENT



By virtue, we humans have ensconced a hierarchy among all the beings due to which we tend to take a lot of things for granted, ignoring just to fulfill our selfish motives. If the trend continues the day isn't far when we will prove the cliché, "when the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river poisoned, only then we will realize that one cannot eat money." One such thing we never care to think twice about are birds that accommodate this planet along with us. A lot of us don't know the significance of birds in our daily lives like its ecological importance, scavenging to assist farmers, a natural propagator and serving as a tool of science to diagnose the health of our environment.

It is time we must unite together with reliable statistics on how to protect bird species by safeguarding their habitats. It is time for all of us to 'think globally, act locally', for the continuity of our environment. Why is counting of birds so important? It is because birds tell us a lot about the health of our environment. Like the White-bellied heron already on the edge of extinction has already posed serious concern for viable environment and the fate of the ecosystem is already at risk. Birds are insistently migrating to uncommonly altitudes signaling to relentless destruction of its natural habitats. Birds keep farmers in their farm business intact by providing helping hand to control different pests. As a son of a farmer –I have personally seen different birds safeguarding potato and orchards field from insect devastation.

Researchers often use different birds to predict the health of our ecosystems, check wetlands health to radioactive contagion.

Recently scientists have also use birds to study the effect of global heating.

However, for better or worse, economic arguments always hit more political concern but never about good environment. I feel bird's life matter in a similar manner like how a single bolt and nut matters to the success of car running. Birds are nature's greatest expression of grace and beauty. Which keeps our ecosystem in balanced for all time? And as hierarchical being we should always strive to maintain the balance, if not we will end up with William Wordsworth expression 'what man has made of man.'

Contributed by Sancha Bdr Rai

Regional Livestock Development Centre (RLDC) Zhemgang

BACKGROUND

The Regional Livestock Development Centre (RLDC) in Zhemgang was restructured and renamed from the erstwhile Regional Veterinary Laboratory (RVL) previously located in Bumthang with the mandates to cater to the livestock development services in the east-central region of the country. It was relocated and established in 1.99 acreage of land in Zhemgang and the office was formally inaugurated on 30th December 2012. As of 22nd November 2018, the RLDC, Zhemgang has a total of 27 staffs (21 regular and 6 contract staffs).

VISION

To attain self-reliance in livestock products and enhance socio-economic well being by way of enhanced domestic production in the region

MISSION

To enhance the productivity of livestock commodities by ensuring prompt delivery of appropriate technologies and expertise to the communities in the region

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

- To make livestock product self sufficient in the region
- Manage regional targets for Annual Performance Management System
- Coordinate and support annual work plan preparation for Dzongkhags to make uniform regional plan
- Coordinate demand and supply collection and forecast for live stock input requirement for development in the Dzongkhags
- Execute post production activity and develop facilities for marketing and market linkages
- Execute value chain management and develop continuous production and supply system
- Provide specialized technical services in animal health, production, breeding & marketing, nutrition and provide analytical report on livestock development in the region
- Monitor regional livestock census and maintain livestock development information and maintain database on livestock information
- Facilitate in developing standardized project proposals for farmers and entrepreneurs
- Support research and dissemination of research findings and technologies implementation
- Advise the division on human resource deployment, transfers and recruitments
- Implement disease outbreak containment and response program
- Coordinate meetings and workshops in regional Dzongkhags

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

- The RLDC, Zhemgang is currently undertaking the following key activities during the FY 2018-19:
- Climate resilient community capture & recreational fishery initiatives for sustained eco-tourism and enhanced rural livelihood in Goshing and Phangkhar Gewogs under Zhemgang Dzongkhag.
 - Promoting climate resilient beekeeping for sustainable smallholder rural livelihood in Zhemgang.

- Youth entrepreneurship in climate smart green forage production and conservation for sustained livestock productivity
- Strengthening disease prevention and control strategies for trans-boundary and highly pathogenic emerging diseases to safeguard human health
- Climate smart integrated aquaculture entrepreneurship for youth employment and fish self sufficiency
- Turn key project on broiler commercialization for enhanced chicken production and improved value chain linkages in Sarpang Dzongkhag.



Submitted by Dechen Pema Yangden

Words of Wisdom

National Graduates' Orientation Program
Thimphu,
October 22, 2008



".....true peace and security of Bhutan will only come from the love and hard work of our people. If, every day, every Bhutanese respects our culture and traditions, our environment; if we uphold the law, if we safeguard what is important to Bhutan and to our future generations, if we do our jobs to the best of our abilities, then we will build a strong nation according to our aspirations, unique to our own way of life...."

"...for a small nation with a small population, it is vital that we have a shared national objective. We cannot afford to work in different directions. We must always have a common goal – the goal of achieving GNH for our people.....A changing world will present new challenges and opportunities to Bhutan and it is the duty of each generation to find new ways to achieve the goals of GNH...."

"....if we want our democratic system to work, if we want a democracy that will fulfill the aspirations of our people, then we must take the next step, we must adopt the ideals and the principles of democracy. We must build a democratic culture. This period when democracy takes the root is a slow process – it takes time – but this process is crucial to democracy's ultimate success...if we can build strong economy, we will have the unshakeable foundations for a vibrant democracy. I am confident of the success of democracy in Bhutan, because democratic values will find fertile ground to grow in Bhutanese society, a society with our own immensely profound age – old values."

Compiled by Dechen Pema Yangden

ON HOPE WE LINGER

When you can't sleep at night, with the tormented past
When your happy memories evades you with a gloom
And you are left with nothing but doom
And, you feel like a cripple wanting a rope
Then, don't forget to cuddle in the blanket of hope
The hope will keep your problems abbeey.
When you are walking endlessly
But don't know where you are going
When you are looking
But don't know what you are looking for
When you are thinking
But you don't know what you are thinking of
And if you wonder what you are doing
Then don't forget to turn yourself to hope
As it will give you the sense of direction.
When you try out new things
You despair, at sight of failure
When you walk a new path
You refuse, at a sign of loss
When you play a game
But a sense of defeat, you reject
And if you can't budge a step forward
That's where you turn to hope
And it will give you optimistic view
Alas! This was lesson I learnt hard
With a pen and paper on a chair
Pondered on what to write
But every topic seems too vague
That's where I turn to hope
And it filled my thought with thoughts.

Submitted by Tandin Wangchuk

Month that was

11 Nov - 50 Years of Bhutan - India Friendship Celebrated at Panbang.

13-18 Nov - Max Coaching Skills Training by RCSC

18-21 Nov - ToT on Online School Feeding Monitoring System for Principals conducted by MoE at RLDC Hall

21 Nov - 111th National Day Celebration job delegation

21 Nov - Audit Entry Meeting

23-25 Nov - MSTF/CBSS Team attends Annual Meeting in Thimphu.

26-29 Nov - 12 FYP review meeting at RLDC Hall

29-30 Nov - e-GP hands on training, Gelephu

IS IT A FAREWELL FOR EVER FROM SCHOOL ?

Someone has rightly said “life is a journey, it goes on”. Thus the unwritten law of life makes it imperative for everyone to trudge along further, as life drifts on and on. Plying amidst these colors of life, childhood is the most cherished phase as the dew drops of purity and innocence glitter through it just like the white color of life. But like every good things coming to an end, so does the school life. Thus the students of classes ten and twelve every year have to endure this harsh reality of life without any protest. So, we, the outgoing students were given a grand farewell party on the eve of December. My emotions were at the peak during that moment as I began to realize that time and tide wait for none. I felt something slipping away through the corridor of my life. It was my school life running away, slaying out the heels of the gravitation of time. It was an inexplicable moment at the boundary of the two stages of my life. I perplexed for an hour to react- should I shed tears to leave my dearest friends or should I step into the new world of cut -throat competition without looking back? At the same moment, I felt the agony of separation from my dear friends. How could I snap the bonds of friendship? At that instance, I recollected the memories of the twelve years – two tiny legs under the shade of the parents approaching the school, the company of friends, the sharing of tiffin strengthening the bonds of friendship, the inter house competitions, the silly pranks inviting the rage of teachers, the morning assembly evoking devotion, morality and above all the love and inspiration of my teachers.

Then I realized that these memories were the precious treasures, which would remain immortal – the gifts of school life, a mere farewell function did not make me stronger to long home of knowledge. My affinity for the school will remain strong forever.

On the other hand, the juniors would leave no stone unturned to make us feel like a star in the scintillating galaxy of flowerians. The infinite pains for putting up the show are crystal clear in the variety of their programmes. This would keep everyone glued to their seats; cheerful faces seemed to be wishing us good luck to win the battle of life. The farewell party would be the last gathering of all the classes ten and twelve flowerians. It is here, that our ways part from each other, to achieve the destination of our dreams. As captured in the words of Robert Frost. So, lastly I have no words thank my school and teachers for giving me an education to endeavor into new a world hereafter. I wish to become a wonderful Bhutanese citizen to serve our country and the Tsa-Wa- Sum with true dedication and devotion.

*Contributed by Pema Samdrup
BBS Zhemgang*

KNC - Khengrig Namsum Cooperative Products



With the vision to become one of the socially acceptable, environmentally responsive and economically sustainable supply chain management cooperative of Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) product in the country, the industry was established on 25th August, 2014 by the members representing the eight gewogs of Zhemgang dzongkhag. The processing plant is based in Brumbi, Tingtibi and KNC currently has 16 members (9 females and 7 males) headed by a chairperson. With the loan capital of Nu.3.2 million from Business Opportunity and Information Centre (BOIC), the organization was able to start the business with proper office set up, production unit and marketing department. The industry focuses on the production of banana and potato chips, dried mushroom and chilli, mango and bamboo shoot pickles, orange and passion fruit pulp. The finished products are marketed in schools, hospitals, hotels, local shops and Bhutan Agro Industries Limited (BAIL) and Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (FCBL). KNC staffs are provided appropriate trainings, seminars, workshops from RNR sectors in the Dzongkhags and Central Agencies and from Non-Governmental Organizations. They also work together with the farmers. KNC focuses on improving the livelihood of the people of Zhemgang Dzongkhag through a creation of reliable, profitable and sustainable market for renewable natural resource products in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders.

Contact person: Dawa Zangpo (Marketing)

Contact Number: 17866745

Compiled by Dechen Pema Yangden

Biogas

Organizer: Bhutan Biogas Program under DoL, MoAF in collaboration with Livestock sector Zhemgang.

Venue: RNR-EC, Tingtibi

Duration: 12 days (25/10/11 to 5/11/18)

12 days hands on training for Biogas Mason and Supervisor successfully ended with the awarding of certificates by Hon'ble Dasho Dzongdag, Dzongkhag Administration of Zhemgang to the participants. The training was organized mainly to ensure a sustainable operating staff technicians to enable easy access of artisans in every eight Geog under Zhemgang Dzongkhag. The training focused on creating a pool of trained Biogas Masons through rigorous theory and practical exercises of vocational training trajectory on three main training platform: Training, Certification and Re-training. Participants From Thimphu, Trongsa, Zhemgang and livestock supervisors from Wangdue and Zhemgang RLDC took part for this particular training. A total of 17 masons and 18 Livestock supervisors was trained and constructed six Biogas at two locations (four at Bertey and Two in Tama) as a hands on practice during the training.



Submitted by Dzongkhag Livestock Sector

My Grandma

You are like armchair, with comfort of bliss
Revering you or stories, I know not?

Like good tale of past, you are in the past
Your stories or you, thought is just a thought

All adventures and wonders to enchant
Your stories were filled with touch of magic

Your gleaming wisdom stories, I will chant
Alive in your stories all shall frolic.

I can still feel your stories within me
Like the rhyme and rhythm found in a poem

To remember your stories chaos free
Is all that I pray every day to him.

Now, I feel the stories are fluttering
And in the name of you, I am writing.

Submitted by Tandin Wangchuk

Tali Zangdo Pelri, Nangkor

It is a three-storied Lhakhang, which was, constructed with, among others, financial contribution from His Majesty the King and His Holiness the 70th Je Khenpo, Trulku Jigme Choeda, who once headed the Zangtopelri. The lhakhang's story begins in the early 1960s when Lam Yeshey Pema Thinley built a small monastery in Tali and established its first dratshang. At that time it had student strength of only 30 monks. Other renowned Buddhist teachers such as Penlopkhen Rinpoche, who came to teach and bless the student in 1967, visited the monastery. Later a winter resident was added for the Tali dratshang in Gelephu.



Source:
Khengrig Namsum by Tenzin Rigden and Ugyen Pelgen

Compiled by Tandin Wangchuk



Small-scale dairy production is an important source of cash income for subsistence farmers, especially in the rural part of Zhemgang Dzongkhag. It is estimated that 70% of the total milk production in Dzongkhag is produced by small-holder dairy farmers and the larger proportion of the supply is Jersey produce, indicating the popularity and increased production of the preferred breed.

While the consumer in general; consumes less milk compared to their counterparts in Thimphu and other populated Dzongkhags, partly due to the myth associated with milk (milk is for children), nonetheless the formal market has expanded rapidly after the Milk Processing Unit was perk up as a pilot project under the directives from DoL to improve small-holder livelihoods through local value chain development. With the increased awareness of health benefits from milk and dairy products, the demand for it has increased drastically. Thus, creating an opportunity for the local farmers to develop new products with added values to meet the rising demand. Hence, three Milk Processing Unit (MPUs) in Trong Dangkhar Chithuen Tshogpa, Buli Namsey Gonor Tshogdey and Magdrep Om Namley Tshogdey in Panbang has attempted to improve small-holder livelihoods through the commercialization of yogurt from the group. Our approach further allows us to grasp the attention of both local and Central schools and we are also able to manage another extra mile in achieving the signing of the contract agreement with the school principals to market their yogurt throughout the academic year. Through this initiative the sector was mandated to produce yearly 18703 cups of Yogurt and 300 Liters of fresh milk for the children to meet the standard nutritionally balanced diet for the school going children.



Contributed by Dzongkhag Livestock sector

Phangkar Gewog



Gewog in Focus - Phangkar

BRIEF HISTORY OF GEWOG

The Phangkar is one of the centrally located Gewog connected by the Gomphu- Panbang high way in the Dzongkhag. The Gewog centre is at Pantang with 89km from Dzongkhag and 25 km away from the Panbang Dungkhag. The name of the Gewog derived from two local syllables 'Pham' meaning loses the war, 'Khar' means the Dzong. In literally, it means the Dzong losses the war to its opinion. We can still see the ruin of Jadrung Dzong at Termapong, Panabi chiwog which has functioned as administration unit of boarder area of India, during the reign of Penlops.

The Gewog falls in the sub-tropical zone with altitude ranges from 238m to 1500m above the sea level. It experiences the hot and humid weather with room temperature in an average of 35 degree Celsius in summer and 20 degree Celsius in winter. The whole area of the Gewog is home to the Royal Manas National Park with rich biodiversity. Eventually, the Gewog has highest poverty incidence of 64.17% in the country as per the GNHC survey 2010. There are eleven small and scattered villages separated each other by difficult terrains and streams.

CHANGARZAM : it is the smallest and the far flung village located at side way to the high way towards the Dungkhag. Earlier the name of the village was known as Changkoli zam, 'Changkoli' means turning point of the river 'zam' is the bridge constructed nearby the river turning point.

SHILINGTEO : Earlier the village was called as Zhiling teo, which was derived from local syllables 'Zhiling' means village with maximum household s 'teo' is the uphill.

TASHIBI : the name of the village was known from the topography of the land and the famous man who happens to reside first in the area called Tashi. 'Tashi' name of the famous man 'bi' means flat land.

PANTANG : is located at the mid way of Gomphu- Panbang highway where the Gewog centre is located. The Pantang in local dialect means valley of abandon growth of wild pata. 'Pan' place of pata 'thang' flat place.

PONGCHULA : is the remotest village in the Gewog with three days dolam from the Gewog centre. The name derived from Pungchoila 'Pung' mass gathering 'choila' means hill topography of the gathering place. Later pronounce as Pongchula.

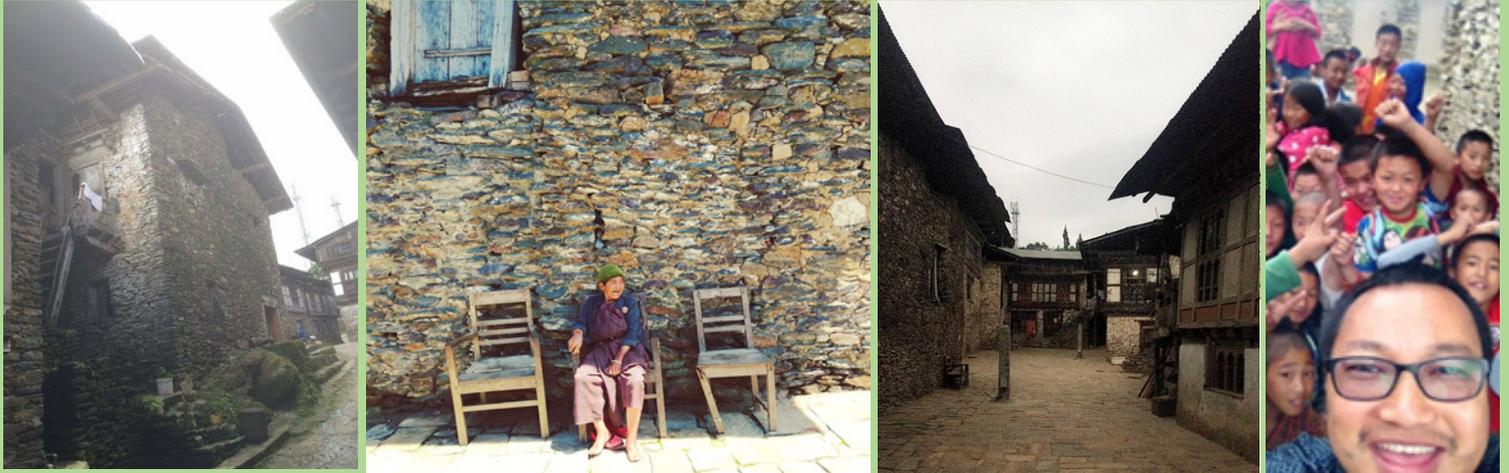
PANABI : is the first village to have access by farm road facility and connected by Pantang-Salapong farm road. The name of the village was known from the local name of the tree found in the place called 'Panala' and 'bi' is the flat land. Tradijong is also another remotest village in the Gewog.

MAMUNG TRONG : the name of the village was Tashicholing however later after the arrival of official guest who have been for the first time in the village has told the local resident to name it as Mamung. 'Mamung' means word of feeling uneasiness or restlessness who does not know anything clearly due to alcohol consumption, 'trong' is the village in kheng.

Contributed by Mohan Subba

Trong Village: Description and Vibrancy Within and Beyond! (Cont.. from 2nd Issue)

Let us now get to what Pride and Prestige would mean for people and community there. How can one see Village's unique vibrancy in and ahead? Following are few things that sprint spontaneously for locals as well as for visitors:



Clustered Beauty: The Heritage Village of Trong has a cluster of 27 registered households and 35 houses altogether. All structured in typical Bhutanese, traditional and local-made style. When I was child, I remember most of the houses are majestically built in towering three-four storied. Today, the houses are put to two-three storied but with unpolished natural stone and was completely clayed without contemporary foundations. The houses are just a foot away to each other while some completely attached. Besides founding houses on natural rocks, one can find a tiny shaped sediments stones piled to build walls of houses looking like a diamond eyes of Afghanistan and Iranian damsels. Not even an air can trace through it yet it hosts sparrows, pigeons and birds chirping every morning from these walls. The windows, doors, and staircases are fashioned with complete varied shapes and sizes all made from hand-carved woods and stones. On an aerial view one can see it like a beautifully knitted One Big House representing the unity as 'One Home-One Community' at the elevated hill-top. It is a hill-top elevated similar to the Dochula. While Dochula has stupas on the hill, the village has unique houses and communities.

Spacious and splendid pathway avenue

Scenically lined like an old medieval town of Greek, the 35 houses are built parallel to each other leaving a spacious pathway in between. The path-ways also serves as corridors inside the village. One could sense a feeling of walking in the corridors of gigantic traditional houses. The Village is a Fortress in itself!

The Historic Trace

The pathway between the village has a greater significance. The pathways for once and many times in past were used as a national footpath for travelers to South towards Gelephu and India, towards central, eastern and western Bhutan Trongsa, Bumthang Wangdi and Thimphu. Lama Zhang, 16th Karmapa, The Kings of past and present, the revered drubthob Meymey VajraGuru, the visiting guest from south and west walked through the same path. Today, if you come across any name with karma, including present Lam Neten Karma Gayley from the village, it is given during the by-pass visit of 16th Karmapa. This was another source of Pride and Prestige, each time anyone can walk by these corridors.

A Recreational ground

I also saw villagers pasturing their cattle through the spacious path-way . Many times, I also crossed it while looking after cows. I walked through it to school, hospital, dzongs and temples. We grew playing marbles, dancing and enjoying variant other fun games. Even day, kids and children enjoy playing fun games and sports, such as marbles (both boys and girls), futsal, soccer, badminton (mostly girls), singing nursery rhymes etc. At all times, there are over a soccer team enthusiastic youth from village. The old, mothers and family laze out their time basking in sun and settle for shade. We also sung Dewali songs. At times, we organize cockfights, bullfights and other fun fights not sparing serious fights from excitements. The festive moments of appeasing local deities and festival such as Choedpa (Chodo-bayla), a kind of bon practice of appeasing and offering to local deities are performed through the corridors path way. On the flipside, that was also the path, the night hunters and courtship happen in olden days. Today, I still walk on same pathways whenever I visit for annual lochoe and gathering in winter. It is just splendidly beautiful, safe and happy to be there every year and spend time meeting, talking, walking, playing and dining with villagers.

(continued in page 10)

A Democratic Platform

Because it provided friendly, comfortable and spacious platform, many good things happened. It can continue to happen just in the corridor. Democracy can be easily operationalized and will just work out well. For example, the pathway can be used in setting up public forum. Assemblies for democratic engagements will be easy like in structure of ancient Greeks medieval assemblies. Any community events, villagers and people can witness and participate right from doors, windows, balconies of attached houses. The call for village zomdu was easier in the past and will be easier to share information just by being bit loud from one end of door or window to other. As we take democratic public forum for 3rd NA campaign, the footpath, right in the center of village would be terrific.

A Green Village

The Village will be easily organic, green and cleanest. There are gardens and space in and out the village. Any flowers and plants could grow there. Thus, the flowers, vegetables, bamboos and plants can be nurtured and well established surrounding the village. A nature friendly pavement and parks can be built in.

The Village have a most fertile and adaptive climate and explorable soil. A various fruit grows there. A fruit plants can be easily plucked right from its window without having to visit market.

A Temple Village

The Village can be temple in itself. Spiritual and conscious ambience can be created and made easily accessible. This can be done right from Kotopong, a junction at highway through village until gompa Pema Yoeling.

In an attempt, last year every household are gifted with a prayer wheel each. Further, the path ways can have sizable prayer wheels sending sounds of peace and happiness in day and night. Prayers can also beautifully erected surrounding the village with even disabled friendly pavement. Old, young and differently abled can circumambulate around it. A village can have sounds, lights and feelings of spiritual wellbeing with electrical and digital engineering not only for day but for evenings and night experience. This will also digitize the village. Already there are promises on free net-packs/wifi to add advantage on this initiative. A Bhutanese prayer flags (not Tibetan) can be hoisted on top of the hills each time to bless the air and wind that visitors and villagers can breathe.

*Contributed by Ugyen Lhendup Sr Research Officer
RRAC ACMS Thimphu*

Bidding Farewell

Name : Tashi Dendup
Village: Pelrithang
Gewog: Gelephu
Dzongkhag: Sarpang
Position Title: Sr. Environment Officer
Parent agency: NECS (2 months)
Date of Appointment: 01/05/2007
1st Posting: Tsirang on 01/07/2007
2nd Posting: Zhemgang on 15/07/2012
Pursued Masters in Climate Change from 11/07/2016 to 31/07/2018, Canberra, Australia
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