



ZHEMGANG MONTHLY

FROM STEPS TO LEAPS

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U.P.C.O.M.I.N.G



FROM DZONGDAG'S DESK



Zhemgang turns out to be a preferred destination for politicians, government officials, corporate retreat, tourists and people on family vacations especially in winter dispelling the general notion of Zhemgang being a remote Dzongkhag. This trend augurs well for our community based tourism development initiatives and the formulation of tourism action plan in the making.

This month, we saw the finalization of the 12th Five Year Plan and endorsement of annual budget for the fiscal year 2018-19. The defining character of this plan is the enormous financial decentralization drive and huge capital budget allocation to the local government institutions accompanied by unprecedented planning and budget utilization autonomy.

At the threshold of the implementation of the plan, Zhemgang Dzongkhag has the second highest poverty rate and alcohol consumption incidence. There are close to four hundred households to be electrified, ten Chiwogs to be connected by farm roads, three Gewog roads to be black topped, more than 50 percent of the households to have no proper toilet facility. Most of our remote communities are yet to have telecommunication networks and access to good health and education services.

Therefore, this plan will principally focus on four thrust areas such as building roads, developing farm enterprise, telecommunications networks and community based tourism to alleviate poverty and continue driving forward the community driven programs for reduction of harmful alcohol consumption.

As our schools reopened for new academic session, we are very fortunate to be blessed by the visit of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo to Sonamthang Central School. This Royal visit was the first school visit by His Majesty in the year 2019. His Majesty, during Royal audience to the students and teachers commanded and advised the students to develop and embrace the qualities and values of good character, good habit and hard work. "Hard work is the key to success and there is no substitute for hard work" advised His Majesty.

We look forward to work towards the realization of the plans, programs and activities of the 12th Five Year plan with unflinching dedication and loyalty and embrace the golden advice of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

February – the confluence of blessing for Bhutanese

This year's Chotrul Dawa – a sacred month of miracles coincided with the two auspicious occasions of the Birth Anniversary celebrations of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and His Royal Highness the Gyalsey respectively. The first month of the Bhutanese calendar is known as Chotrul Dawa, which is believed that Buddha Shakyamuni performed many miracles for the benefit of sentient beings in the six realms.

5th February: Coinciding with the auspicious Birth Anniversary of His Royal Highness Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck, Zhemgang Rabdey and Dzongkhag Administration performed kurim - Chagna Dorje (in short Chagdor) Choga and lighted one thousand butter lamps - Karmey Tongchoe at the Kuenrey in Dechhen Yangtse Dzong (see photo 1).



Photo 1

Dzongkhag Administration also marked the auspicious day by freeing lives (Tshethar) of domestic animals for the long life of our HRH Gyalsey. A Tshethar or Soglu is the age-old traditional practice of rescuing and saving lives of animals, which are on the verge of slaughtering. According to the Buddhist perspective, it is generally believed that one will live long and have peace and happiness by freeing those animals. Although Zhemgang Dzongkhag does not have a designated farm, there are few communities who rear domestic animals like goats and birds for self consumption on special occasions like Losar, Dasain, and other functions and for income generation as well.



(Lam Neten sanctifying Tshetar roosters and goats)

21st February: The Rabdey, civil servants, students, people and business communities of Khenrig Namsum celebrated a joyous occasion of the Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo at Dzongkhag headquarters' event ground. The auspicious Day began with offering of one thousand butter lamps and Zhabtoen at Dechhen Yangtse Dzong - a seat of Drogoen Lama Zhang for the long life, good health and glorious reign under the benevolent leadership of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

Coinciding with the auspicious occasion, Dzongkhag Administration relaunched the webpage, which was improved by a committee, in line with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information and Communications.

During the main event, Dasho Dzongdag graced the above auspicious occasion as the Chief Guest. The Dzongkhag and regional staff, students and teachers of Zhemgang Central Schools (both upper and lower), and business people took part in the various cultural entertainment programs and concluded with Tashi Lebey.

*Contributed by Kinzang Dorjee
Administration Finance
Dzongkhag Administration Dechhen Yangtse Dzong*

Three approaches of my life

BY DR.DORJIWANGCHUK

(Transcript of my talk in Zhemgang Central School on February 25, 2019)

Well, let me start by saying how humbled I am to be asked to speak to you. I am neither a VIP nor a celebrity and so I must apologize to you for ruining your Sunday. I suppose, now, I must also do some justice after getting this honour.

I had a topic in mind, which I always share with school students wherever I go. It is about finding your passion and purpose in life. But after getting here and looking around, I see myself in you – a poverty-stricken boy that I was – of some 30-40 years ago. So, let me share my own childhood story that somewhat resonates with yours. Hopefully, it will inspire you to make a better world for yourself and for those around you.

Unlike what I am today, I grew up in a very poor family. We lived in a hut and our only priced property was a goat. As a child, I remember complaining about being hungry all the time. And so, when I turned 7, I was packed off to a boarding school in Phuntsholing Kharbandi, where the government provided everything from food to clothing to basic needs. There our life was hard. We slept on bug-ridden beds and ate worm-infested food. We woke up at 5 in the morning to study, pray, clean our campus, have breakfast and go to class. The academic part ended by mid-day and after lunch, we had to go to our respective workshops where we learnt tailoring, carpentry, sheet metalling, welding and so on.

For much of my school life, I also went barefoot – with Bata slippers at the most – or a pair of converse shoes that the school provided, which lasted for few months. We were all poor and so we didn't mind being that way. Now, when I look back I cherish growing up poor. I thank my parents for the poverty. It hardened me like a steel. It taught me valuable life-lessons – to be empathetic and to identify with the down-trodden. It taught me to be a good human being.

I completed my school in 1982 and I was sent to work in a factory in Gedu. Two or three months into my first job, I realised that, although I was paid well, it was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life and so I ran away to Thimphu to try for further studies. After waiting patiently at the door of the Department of Manpower (which had just been renamed as RCSC), for a week in freezing winter, I got admission to Dewathang Polytechnic to study electrical engineering. From there I went on to do advanced studies in electronics engineering in Italy in 1988. The generous scholarship to Italy also improved my economic situation. I could not only take care of myself but I also helped my parents bring up my two other siblings and three younger cousins – and build a house in Thimphu. I returned from Italy in 1995 and I had a comfortable job as an engineer in BBS. For many a government job is the dream and destination. For me it was a platform to do more – do new things – to leave a legacy. I proposed introducing FM radio – which has better signal quality. You guys are too young to remember how badly BBS Radio sounded in those days. But FM was a hard sell because some foreign consultants had concluded that FM radio was unsuitable for Bhutan. I knew that it was not true and I challenged that finding. After successfully testing the FM technology, we introduced in the whole country starting from 1998. After FM, came the TV project, which faced another big challenge, as His Majesty the Fourth King had earlier shown some reservations on introducing television in the country. We all know that the King's words are sacred, but I always believed that circumstances change and the prevailing context was that we required to bring in TV and Internet, which we ultimately did in 1999. In those years, I worked 16-18 hours a day on average. I worked with the laborers at site. I led the technicians to do installations on high towers. I pitched tents and lived at the construction sites.

I resigned from the government in 2006 after my career hit a wall. Just two weeks after I won a big international award for one of my documentaries, I was barred from making them. Instead of sinking into despair and lament, or fight a losing battle, I decided it was time to move on – and away. So, I pursued an independent life of filmmaking and journalism. However, in 2009 I was called back into the government again, in the service of His Majesty the King. I was there for four years – until 2013. That was the zenith of my career – an honour and a dream of every Bhutanese. My whole family, friends and I are still very proud that I have been through that. After I was relieved from the palace, I offered myself to teach in Sherubtse College as a temporary teacher – gloriously known as adjunct professor in university parlance. There I discovered yet another world, in teaching and research.

I know you all dream of being successful in your life. If you define success in terms of being able to do things that you want and thrive too, then I must say I had a successful life. Today as I reflect on my life, there are three things I can draw from there – which I define as my style and approach. For, success and happiness start with one's approach and attitude. People talk about nepotism and corruption. I had neither a powerful uncle nor did I indulge in corruptive practices. If I have been successful regardless, so can you. Here are few things that may come handy. First, learn the fundamentals.

In my career I have recruited, groomed, mentored and taught hundreds of Bhutanese. One shortcoming that we all seem to have, irrespective of our profession, is that we don't learn the fundamentals – the basics. We let shortcuts and ego take over our learning.

Continued in Page 9

Tali Zangdogpelri - the seat of Geshey Pema Thinley

If you are driving at night from Tingtibi towards Dakphai, you can see a glittering heavenly abode of Tali Zangdogpelri that generates instant devotion at sight. Tali Zangdogpelri is located on a spectacular hillock resembling eight leafed lotus flower above the hamlets of Tali and Khikhar. It is 39 Km away from Zhemgang Dzongkhag center on the way to Buli.

The current site of the Zangdog Pelri was prophesized by Zogchen Master Polokhen Rinpoche to Geshey Pema Thinley in 1966 when Polokhen Rinpoche visited Tali to consecrate Tali Changlochen Lhakhang in Tali village. Polokhen Rinpoche was one of the Principal root Lamas of Her Majesty the Gyalyum Phuntsho Choden Wangchuck the Queen of His Majesty the Second Druk Gyalpo.

Geshey Pema Thinley in obedience to the prophecy started constructing the Zangdog Pelri. However, Geshey passed away to the realm of Parinirvana in 1969 before the completion of the construction. Thereafter, Polokhen Rinpoche instructed Lam Therchung to continue the construction. Lam Therchung and Uzin Lopen Minjur initiated the construction of Lhakhang in 1973, but Lam Therchung too passed away before the Lhakhang could be completed.

Considering the historical and spiritual significance of the Zangdogpelri , His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo commanded the construction of Zangdogpelri to His Holiness the 70th Je-Khenpo Trulku Jigme Choeda in 1990 while His Holiness was serving as the Lam Neten in Gelphug Dratsang. Later His Holiness initiated the construction of Zangdogpelri in 1994 after assuming the post of Dorji Lopen.

The site and Zangdogpelri is believed to be blessed by several highly learned and realized masters such as Polokhen Rinpoche, Dodrub Rinpoche and Khenpo Dazer. The masters and devotees conducted various teachings and empowerments of Longchen Nyingthig Yazhi, Rigzin Duepai Drubchen and Deche Zhingdrub at the present site.

Today, Zangdogpelri is revered as the sacred site of worship for people from far and near. It also houses a monastic school administered by Khenpo Ugyen Lhendup serving as one of the centers of Buddha Dharma in Kheng-ri-namsum.



*Contributed by Lobzang Dorji
Dasho Dzongdag*



The Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Lecture
New Delhi, India,
December 23, 2009

“.....the power of the individual has never been greater than at this time in history and yet, the helplessness of the less fortunate may never have been as distressing either – in an age of plenty. Modernization and political change have raised the individual’s freedom, but it has also led to a less desirable and unconscious freeing of the individual from his obligations to society and the greater good.....while young people leaving university must be armed with degrees, it is more important that they be endowed with a strong sense of values that bring meaning and purpose in their lives as well as stable, bright future ahead for the society and the world.”

“...individual or even national success is a ship that cannot carry everyone together to the same place at the same time....no nation today can stand alone in achievement. Time is slowly telling us that there can be no lasting individual success without success as a community and there cannot be lasting national progress and success if it does not fit into a future of global peace, harmony and equality. The world must progress together or fail together.”

“....GNH is the bridge between the fundamental values of Kindness, Equality and Humanity and the necessary pursuit of economic growth. GNH acts as our National Conscience guiding us towards making wise decisions for a better future. It ensures that no matter what our nation may seek to achieve, the human dimension, the individual’s place in the nation, is never forgotten. It is a constant reminder that we must strive for a caring leadership so that as the world and country changes, our nation’s goals change, our forefathers priority will always remain the happiness and well being of our people – including the generations to come after us.”

Nyakhar Lhakhang

Name : Nyakhar Lhakhang

Date of Construction Unknown, probably early 18th century

Category Heritage site—Temple

Geographical Location Nyakhar village,

Nangkor gewog, Zhemgang district



The Nyakhar Lhakhang is located in Nyakhar village, in Nangkor gewog, Zhemgang dzongkhag. It is located approximately 55 kms from Zhemgang main town. It is now accessible by a farm road from Buli, and takes approximately 2 hours to reach the village. The temple stands below the village farm road, in the heart of the village.

The name of the temple comes from the village name, Nyakhar. Legend has it that the villagers offered wild asparagus to Lama Zhang (late-17th century, the 2nd reincarnation of Beyul Lama Sacha Yoezer) of Zhemgang, hence Lama Zhang named the village as Nyakhar (the village of asparagus).

According to sources, Nyakhar was ruled by a noble family, the Nyakhar Dung. This family was powerful in the Kheng region from the 11th century until the mid-17th century, and they were believed to be the descendants of the Ura Dung, Lhawang Drakpa (of Tibetan royal lineage). Their dominance came to an end with the advent of the Drukpa sect in the 17th century. Then Nyakhar Dung had requested lama Zhang to build a temple in Nyakhar. Lama Zhang was offered a pair of cymbal, and it is believed that he had thrown the cymbal from a place called Lhaipong to see where it lands. At first the cymbal had landed at the bottom of the village; however, it swirled again and landed in the heart of the village. This was considered a good omen, and a temple was built there. After the temple was completed, Nyakhar Dung offered 13 gold statues and a scripture written in gold. These relics are still housed in the temple to this day, and they are not open for public display.

Yeshey Wangda, a 98-year-old man, the oldest person in the village believes that Lama Zhang had built the temple in Nyakhar because the architectural style is similar to a temple in Kurtoe (Lhuntse) in eastern Bhutan, which is believed to have been built by Lama Zhang. According to oral sources, lama Zhang had constructed three temples: one in Nyakhar, one in Kurtoe, and the third temple in an unspecified place.

Another supposition is that Dorji, a villager, said that Nyakhar Dung had looked for an appropriate place to build a temple in the village. He had climbed a hill and had thrown the cymbal to see where it lands, and built the temple on the place where the cymbal landed.

The four pillars inside the temple, made from cypress tree, are considered sacred. The pillars were not replaced since its initial construction. Nyakhar Dung's descendant is the caretaker of the temple.

The temple is a two-storey traditional building with the main altar on the first floor and a storeroom on the ground floor. The villagers wanted to carry out a major renovation of the temple, but the proposal was denied by the government because of its antiquity. Thus, a minor expansion was carried out about 10 years ago with the help of the villagers and financial aid from the gewog administration.

The main relics in the temple are the 13 gold statues, the golden scripture, and the pair of cymbals that was offered to lama Zhang by the Nyakhar Dung. In the main hall, the center statue is Toenpa (Buddha) with Chenrezig (Avalokiteshvara) on the right and Guru Padmasambhava on the left. The walls are covered with paintings of Tshepamay (Amitayus), Kunzang Yab Yum (The primordial Buddha Samanthabhadra with his consort), Oepamey (Amitabha), Guru Tshengay (the 8 manifestations of Guru Padmasambhava), and a painting of Nyakhar Tshen, the local deity of the village called Senchen Dralha Gorchung. The Goenkhag (altar of the protective deities) has Madza Dam Sum, Ekajati, Za (Rahula), they are the three principal protectors of the Nyingma tradition; Dorje Legpa (Vajrasadhu); and the local deity, Senchen Dralha Gorchung. Besides the sacred relics, there are also new statues that were offered in the name of the deceased by their families.

Social and Cultural Functions

The temple organizes Yar-Ngo, a ritual on the 10th day of the Bhutanese month, and Mar-Ngo, a ritual on the 25th day of the Bhutanese month. A three-day Nyungney (prayer and fasting ceremony) is conducted from the 8th to the 10th day of the 1st month of the Bhutanese calendar, followed by the ritual of Norbu Jamtsho (Homage to the spiritual teacher).

Yonten Norbu Asst Lecturer College of Language and Culture Studies Taktse Trongsa Royal University of Bhutan 2017

Telegram

Telegram is a cloud-based instant messaging and voice over IP service developed by Telegram Messenger LLP, a privately held company registered in London, United Kingdom, founded by the Russian entrepreneur Pavel Durov and his brother Nikolai. Wikipedia

Initial release date: August 14, 2013

Available in: English Language, Arabic Language, MORE
Platforms: Android, iOS, Windows Phone, Windows NT, macOS, Linux, Web application.

Telegram groups can have up to 200,000 members.

Here are a few key features that make them stand out in the messaging world:

- Unified history
- Cross-platform availability
- Instant search
- Replies, mentions, hashtags
- Smart notifications
- Pinned messages
- Moderation tools - Administration
- Group permissions
- File sharing and -Public groups

NOTE:

As we will soon migrate to TELEGRAM, we request all to have this app installed on Mobile

We bid farewell to



Sonam Jamtsho, OC (Major, RBP)



Eden Gyelmo - Accountant

Month that was

5-6 Feb - Losar Celebration

12 Feb - 3rd BMCM

13 Feb - Placement of class XI Students in two Higher Secondary Schools

21 Feb - 39th Birth Anniversary Celebration of His Majesty

21 Feb - Re-Launch of Zhemgang web page

28 Feb - Special DT

Zhemgang Dzongkhag welcomes the following officials

Pema Dangsels



Title: Major, RBP
Designation: OC Zhemgang PS
Organization: RBP
email: pdangsels@rbp.gov.bt
Phone: 17800394

Phub Tshering



Designation: Culture Officer
email: phubtshering@zhemgang.gov.bt
Phone: 17767781

Dorji Wangchuk



Designation: Procurement Officer
email: dorjiwangchuk@zhemgang.gov.bt
Phone: 17368161

Sonam Zangmo



Designation: Economic Development Officer
email: sonamzangmo@zhemgang.gov.bt
Phone: 17532534

Norbu Zangmo



Designation: Dz. Beautification Officer
email: nzangmo@gmail.com
Phone: 17544945

Thinley Tobgyal



Designation: ADHO
email: thrinley707@gmail.com
Phone: 17120025

His Majesty's Birth Anniversary

Zhemgang joins the Nation in Celebrating Beloved His Majesty's Birthday.



Contributed by Mohan Subba

Gewog in Focus - Trong

The Gewog administration is located at Tingtibi by the side of high way to Gelegphug and Trongsa. The name of Gewog derived from two local syllables 'Tinti' meaning depth 'Bi' meaning a piece of flat land. A satellite town is also established in the year 1991. The Gewog Centre is 35 kms away from the Dzongkhag Administration and lies at an altitude of 500-620 meters above the sea level with extreme type of climate, very hot in summer and cold in winter. The Gewog is partly covered by two wildlife corridors viz the Royal Manas National Park and the Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park. Out of the eight Gewogs, Trong is considered as one of the prosperous gewogs because of its proximity to the National High Way and farm road accessibility to all five chiwogs and villages.

TRONG : falls within the Zhemgang Dzongkhag town area. The word Trong as per the local dialect means to assassinate. A renowned religious practitioner and reincarnation of Lam Shacha Yoezer known as Lam Zhang was assassinated by local residents, thus deriving its name for the area.

DANGKHAR : is just below the Dzongkhag town area. It was earlier known as Dhakhar, which according to local dialect "dha" means signal and "khar" meaning place. The local residents were responsible for passage of secret information for the assassinating of Lam Zhang, thus deriving its name.

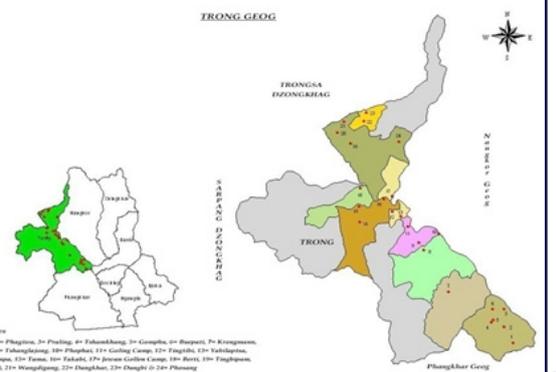
ZURPHEL : is located on a sloppy terrain above Panbang High way. In the local dialect, it was earlier Zurbay, 'Zur' means side or corner while 'bay' meaning place of paradise, village was named as it is said that the parts of Bayuel are being shared by the village.

TAMA : is located on a high way to Gaylegphug overlooking Mangdechu with good forest coverage. 'Ta' means Tiger in the local dialect. It is believed that the population of tiger was dense in the area, thus deriving its name.

GOMPHU : is located by the side of Panbang High Way on a gentle steep terrain with small hills above. As per the local dialect 'Gom' is meditation while 'Phu' refers to hills. The local residents and religious practitioners from other areas visited this area for meditation, thus deriving its name.

SUBRANG : is earlier known as Sibrangma and located above Panbang High Way. As per the local dialect 'Si' means a kind of wild bee while 'Brangma' refers to honey. It has now changed from Sibrangma to Subrang.

TSHANGLAJONG : was known as Tshamtajong, which in local dialect means 'Tsham' border, while 'Lajong' refer to unification. The two warring factions viz Tshanglajong and Tingtibi came to consensus for unification, thus deriving its name.



Three approaches of my life (continued from page 3)

When I watch BBS today, I find that some shots are not even framed well. If you look into our private sector, we see lots of businesses failing because owners can't keep proper accounts or read balance sheets – and salespersons lack basic courtesies. Whether you are, or you want to be, an engineer, a teacher, an architect, a footballer or a medical doctor, you must learn and master the fundamentals. If you don't, you will find no success or meaning in any profession you choose.

I have done many things in life. I was trained to be an engineer all my life. But when I moved to documentary film-making I picked up the fundamentals of camera works, scripting, editing and directing. Since I am now in teaching and research, I decided to go back to classroom to learn the basics of research and methodologies. In all the things I did, I can say that I have achieved some level of "success" – whatever this word means.

As for you, at this stage, if you want to be an engineer in future, you need to be good in maths and physics. If you want to be a doctor or a vet, you need good foundations in biology. If you want to be a writer, you must perfect Dzongkha or English. In short, learning the fundamentals means learning the basics. If you don't get your basics right, you will be an average – or below average.

Being average... is the second thing I want to talk to you today. If you look around and observe what most people do, they do what is just expected of them. Many people don't even do that. They are below the average. You are more than 300 here today and if your Principal has to pick some of you for some rewards, he wouldn't know whom to choose. But let's say, among you there are students, who do a little more. These students will be noticed. As life gets more competitive, you need to be noticed from a sea of average candidates. The same advice goes to teachers who have joined us here today.

If you choose to be an average, if you don't do anything more, if you don't take initiatives, if you are just conforming to the norms and conventions, if you don't take some risks, you won't get very far. You will have to struggle for a job, for a promotion, for a scholarship or for recognitions. You need to stick your neck out. Now this also comes at a cost. Our society demands conformity and does not tolerate initiatives or criticisms. So, the choice is yours. As for me, I have chosen, and choose, to stick out. I know everything wasn't always easy or rosy for me. The ride has been bumpy at times, to put it mildly. But if I could rewind my life, there is nothing I would do differently.

Yes, always do a little more. Plant a tree, clean a classroom, water the garden, pick up a garbage without your teachers asking you. Form this habit at your age.

Last, is about moving forward. I am sure many people must have showered you with all the promises of paradise. As a country, yes, there is no reason to be pessimistic. We live in a blessed land. However, as you live your life individually – like as you grow older, get a job, start a family and move forward in your profession, you will be faced with challenges and obstacles. Since your teachers and your elders have taught you how to succeed, let me tell you how to navigate your way out of disappointments, envies and enemies that will come your way – together with achievements, accolades and guardian angels. What I want you to always remember is to look forward and say to yourself, "OK! What next? Where next?"

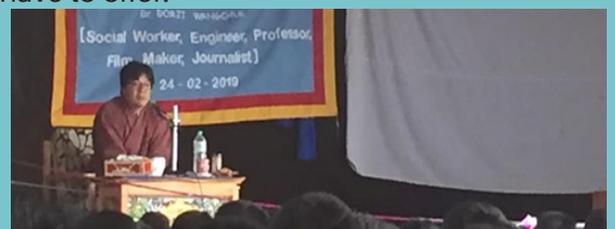
We, Bhutanese, have the habit of nagging on something that has gone wrong. Move on!

You know, in my life I have made mistakes too – a lots of mistakes – some were very big. But they only served to remind me that I am a human after all. The most important thing is to learn from them, never to make the same mistake twice and to move on. So do not kill yourself, if you fail in something.

On the other hand, do not celebrate too much or put on added arrogance if success comes your way. Do not behave like you descended from heaven – like some of my own friends do. You will actually learn that success and achievements are not necessarily good. They attract envies and jealousies. You must also know that despairs and disappointments are not necessarily bad either. They reveal who your true friends are. Therefore, whatever happens in your life, promise me one thing – that you will always move on.

Let me conclude by also reminding you not to forget to have fun. This is a golden age. As you study and prepare for your life, have as much fun, make memories and as many friends as possible. After this, you will have to get down to how best to serve our King and Country.

Much of what I remember when I was your age was that I used to be my Principal's worst nightmare because I was mischievous and fun-loving – always up to something. But unlike some youth of today, we never touched drugs or alcohol or attempted suicides. Please stay away from these things. You can have fun without indulging in drugs or drinks. They don't bring any lasting joy. But they put an end to your parent's happiness. So, to wrap up, again, three things – learn your fundamentals, stop being an average and whatever happens with your life, just keep going forward. I wish you all the best that our country, your life and the world, have to offer.



Contributed by Karma Wangchuk

Regional Mithun Breeding Farm, Wangdigang, Zhemgang

Mithun Farm was established in 1977 at Wangkha under Chhukha Dzongkhag, the farm had to be re-located to Zhemgang due to encroaching of pasture lands by the THPA project and disturbances from project related activities. The National highway also posed very high bio-security threats to the farm animals. The farm was shifted to Zhemgang in the mid of the 9th FYP (December 2005-February 2006). Except physical relocation, the main objective of the farm remain the same wherein it is mandated to produce, procure and distribute purebred Mithun bulls to the farmers of West, Central and East Central Dzongkhags of the country which consists of 14 Dzongkhags. The first hybrid of Siri cattle and Mithun are in high demand because the male (Jatsha) and female (Jatsham) are known for their sturdy draft purposes and high content of butter and fat (thick quality milk) respectively.

The farm has an area of 1628 acres with abundant forages for free ranching of the animals. However, the efforts have been made to develop improved pasture wherever necessary. Due to the fragile ecological condition of the site, proper land management practices are in place and wherever necessary fodder trees with dual benefits are planted in and around the open area. Introduced species of fodders include Napier, Guatemala, Clover and kikuyu grass. The topography of the farmland varies from slope of about 25-30% to very steep.

Mandates:

Long term

- To raise the nutritional status of the people in the country by way of increase in productivity and production of the milk products.
- To add to the strength of the country's draft power mainly in agricultural.
- To increase agriculture production in terms of manure contribution.

Short term

- To run the farm as a nucleus farm (mithun bull mother) for producing pure mithun bulls for supplying to the farmers of west, central and east central Dzongkhags and to NDDC Yusipang for semen production.
- To monitor the performance production of the Mithun bulls in Dzongkhags.

Management strategies:

1. To raise the nutritional and Agricultural productivity of the country.
2. To produce, procure and supply pure bred mithun bulls to the farmers of western central and eastern central regions of the country.
3. Monitor the productivity of the bulls in the Dzongkhags.
4. Change the Breeding sires every after 4 or 5 years in order to avoid inbreeding practices.

Constraints/ Threats:

1. Insufficient of Livestock Attendant (Only Four attendants are available at present to cover huge area i.e. 1628 acres) that causes huge burden to monitor 80-100 heads of animals.
2. In absence of Pasture Attendants, the technical staffs and livestock attendants have to be engaged in carrying out the pasture developmental activities.

*Contributed by
Phuntsho Wangdi
RCMBF Zhemgang*

Up coming Events

12th March - Thru (at Thruelang)

13th March - Chamju (for Tshechu)

14th - 16th March Zhemgang Tshechu

16th March - Throngdrel

26th March - 5th Bi-Monthly Coordination Meeting

Newsletter Team

Advisor

Mr. Lobzang Dorji, Dzongdag



Coordinator

Mr. Karma Wangchuk, Dy. CDEO



Regional Contributor

Mr. Pema Samdrup, BBS Correspondent



Photography, Design & Layout

Mr. Mohan Subba, IT Officer



Editorial and Contributors

Mr. Chungla Dorji, CDEO



Mr. Thinley Jamtsho,
Sr. Planning Officer



Mr. Tshewang Dorji, DKO



Ms. Dechen P Yangden, Teacher, ZCS LC



Mr. Tandin Wangchuk, Teacher, ZCS HC

