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H.E. Gyalwa Dokhampa

## HIGHLIGHTS

- We Care to Care
- A Moment with the Director
- Service Towards Community Development
- Hon'ble Minister of Works and Human Settlement visits JNP

## Visit by H.E. Gyalwa Dokhampa

The spring season of 2014 indeed proved to be a blessing for the institute as the long awaited moment had finally arrived with the arrival of His Eminence, The ninth Gyalwa Dokhampa, popularly known as Khamtrul Rinpoche Jigme Pema Nyinjadh, who was recognized by His Holiness Dalai Lama, His Holiness Gyalwa Drukpa and His Eminence the first Thuksey Rinpoche. This day was awaited since 2012, with the Director's undying enthusiasm towards religion and welfare of the institute. Rinpoche was received by the Director along with few staff members and later by the staff and students in the institute on 31st of March.

The entire two days of Rinpoche's stay in the campus was well planned and meaningfully spent. On 1st of April, consecration (*Tashi Rabney*) ceremony was conducted for the newly constructed infrastructures in the campus, following which the students and staff gathered in the Multipurpose Hall (MPH) to receive teachings from Rinpoche, especially on the true essence of being a Buddhist. In a simple manner, His Eminence explained the essence of Buddhism. The teaching lasted for about three hours. In the evening, a cultural show was presented by the staff and students for His Eminence.

A question-answer session was held in the morning of the next day during which several questions were asked both by the students and the staff. A session on *Jangchhub Sempi Dampa* (Way of the Bodhisattva) was also conducted and each individual was given a name during the session that would remind them of the *dampa* of being a Bodhisattva. In the afternoon, everyone gathered in the JNP football field to receive blessings (Wang) from Rinpoche. Many people in and around the community of Dewathang was also there to receive the blessings from Rinpoche. All students and staff contributed in making the two day programme a grand success. The day ended with the screening of a documentary film titled *Pad Yatra, a green Odyssey*

in the evening in the MPH, which focused on the awareness of dumping of plastic wastes, where Rinpoche along with his teacher also made their presence. The next day, the Director along with some staff went to see off His Eminence and also some interested students were there to bid farewell to Rinpoche, who said that he felt very homely in JNP. Rinpoche's three nights and two days of stay at JNP made JNP a sacred place. His teachings were powerful enough to alter our thoughts and made us think deeply about our everyday life. It was found that some of the students opted to turn into a vegetarian as a consequence of Rinpoche's teachings.

Lastly, it was an honour and a blessing indeed to receive such a great personality in our very own institute.

By: **Kezang Wangmo**, D2C



D1CHN presenting a 'Boedra' dance

## We Care to Care

**A**s a Bhutanese, we really take pride in everything that defines us to others. Despite the size, Bhutan has a very rich culture and tradition which is unique and beautiful and has been preserved since long time.

Realizing the essence, on 22nd of March, JNP conducted a showcase program using one of the pillars of Gross National Happiness as its theme, where all the students and staff took time reminiscing our rich culture and tradition.

The program started with a footage showcasing diverse cultures and traditions from all parts of Bhutan. The unique beauty in our rich culture and tradition left the most audience awestruck. However the main content of the program was to showcase different types of music practices, mostly focusing on Bhutanese classical music.

Audiences were also asked to share their views during the program. Many students actively participated and shared their personal views related to the theme, which were very genuine and showed how much they take pride in our unique culture and tradition.

Kunzang Thinley, one of the students asserted that the tradition is not only reflected in the attires, respect or types of music we choose to listen but it outranges to unlimited list among which preservation of Dzongkha was highlighted. He also mentioned that the program was indeed very effective and learned new things which were never known.

The program ended in a very traditional manner. All the audience joined the floor for a final dance 'Tashi Laybay' after the National Anthem. Through this program we learned that we are usually busy trying to obtain something which we claim we need, failing to realize what we already have is actually very beautiful and important, so much so that we cannot afford to lose it and that it needs to be preserved. So, no matter how busy one is, one should always appreciate and care to care what we have.

By: **Rinchen Dema**, D2C

## Agriculture Activities in JNP

**J**igme Namgyel Polytechnic is not only growing in terms of infrastructure but also in many other areas. Recently 'Natural Farming' club was formed where both interested staff and students are involved. Now, JNP have its own vegetable garden for the benefit of the students.

From 2013, JNP started managing a small scale garden to grow different types of vegetables such as spinach, beans, ginger etc. Despite being engineering students, many students took part and engaged themselves to gain farming experiences and skills.

In the future, JNP is planning to expand the gardening activities, aiming to grow more vegetables. There will also be plantation of beans and tomatoes. In this way the club conveys good example of sustainable agriculture farming and contribute towards economy positively. JNP also aims to be a self-sufficient college in terms of vegetable requirement in the student mess.

By: **Rinzin Samdrup**, D2M

SJI officials demonstrating gardening techniques.





# A Moment with the Director



It was an opportunity well spent with Dr. Andu Dukpa, Director of Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic who shared his views about the goodwill of JNP and partly about his life.

After the completion of his Diploma course from the then Royal Bhutan Polytechnic in 1993,

which is now known as Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic, decided to remain with the institute and pursue a teaching career. He was briefly attached with the then Department of Power, Ministry of Trade and Industry as a Section Officer. He said, "In order to produce good engineers, an engineering teacher must have in-depth knowledge on his/her subject area, and to achieve that, one must keep learning; one of which is through formal further study".

He completed his B. Tech. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the erstwhile Regional Engineering College (REC) which is now called the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal; Masters (M. Tech.) from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and finally PhD in Electrical Engineering (Power Systems) from the University of New Brunswick, Canada.

On 17th of December 2013, coinciding with the 106th National Day of Bhutan, he was awarded the National Order of Merit (Gold) by His Majesty the 5<sup>th</sup> King and proved his competence, but he said, "I'm still learning."

Upon asking him the journey from a student to a Director of JNP, he said, "It went smoothly. If you think that the path is rough, it will be rough and if you think the path is smooth, it will be smooth. It's how you take it."

Though hardships behold on his way, he passed it with utmost confidence.

Now as a Director, his vision is to produce good graduates that are beneficial to the society and significant role models to the future youth of Bhutan.

In order to achieve those goals, he faced many challenges, one of which is the shortage of faculty members and staff in the institute, and also financial constraints.

He, along with colleagues from JNP is working towards intro-

ducing more courses in JNP. A new programme, Diploma in Surveying will be introduced from July 2014 and there are other programmes in the pipeline, namely; Bachelor of Engineering in Power Engineering; B.E/Diploma in Mechatronics, Network Security and Construction Management in the future. By producing more specialized course it will be more effective and beneficial for the youth and the socio-economic development of the country.

He said, "Bhutan is in need of engineers and as of now JNP (Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic) and CST (College of Science and Technology) are the only colleges responsible for producing in-house engineers, therefore it's our responsibility to deliver meaningful engineers to various stakeholders in Bhutan as well as outside and maximize the development activities in Bhutan."

Besides the shortage of faculty and funds in the institute, one of the obstacles he faces is the students' unwillingness to work harder and their overall attitude towards free education versus hard work that they have to put in. Compared to past he said, "The number of courses, students and facilities have greatly improved however, our youths have become very vulnerable to external influences and tend to imitate the negative action of youths from elsewhere, such as drinking, abusing substance and other issues such as relationship. However, we as Bhutanese, we must not lose our own identity. One's culture is one's identity and we should value that as a Bhutanese."

JNP has broadened its doors to very optimistic ideas and that has been considered leverage in getting recognized both within the country and outside. The popular demands of the diploma engineers have shown the capacity of the graduates of JNP but it has also created a false notion that JNP also stands for 'JOB NO PROBLEM.'

To that statement, the Director said, "It is not JNP that gives you job but it's the ability and hard work of oneself that has led to success. Though public say that about JNP, the fact is it's the potential of oneself, if you are good you will get jobs, if not you won't, saying JNP as job no problem is not going to change anything as long as one does not work hard. You must recognize your role in life and everything shall fall to place."

This moment with the Director was well spent and it is felt that the readers and students will be benefited from this candid dialogue with the Director.

By: **Roshan Gurung, D1C**



## Promotion of National Game

The institute also believes in promoting traditional games, especially among the staff and students. As part of the promotion, the last archery match was played on Sunday, 6th of April, 2014 at the newly developed archery field in the institute. The tournament was coordinated by two staff, Mr. Dechen Dorji and Mr. Sangay Tshering. It is the second archery tournament held in institute on traditional equipment (bow & arrows).

There were 4 teams consisting of seven players which included lecturers, staffs, students and cooks. The tournament was sponsored by Mr. Tshering Phuntsho (staff) and Mr. Dorji Wangchuk (contractor) with an entry fee of Nu. 300/- per player. The winners, first runners up and second runners up were awarded *Ku* (holy statues), *Dhomang* (holy book) and Butter lamps respectively. There were additional prizes for highest scorer, highest bull's eye and the Man of the Match.

- \* Winner - Team 3
- \* Highest Scorer - Karma Singye (Staff)
- \* Maximum Bulls' Eye - Sonam Norbu (D2C)
- \* Man of the Match - Jigme Thinley (D2M)

Team Name	Captain
Team 1	Dawa (D2E)
Team 2	Kezang (Cook)
Team 3	Jigme Thinley (D1M)
Team 4	Kinzang Gyalpo (D2E)



An archer shooting an arrow

## Service Towards Community Development

On 23rd of March 2014, group of 'Helping Hand' club members left 23 km away from the institute to Menchari village. The village is located in a remote area without much development but farmers grow their own food and cash crops, showing signs of self-reliance. They seem happy and satisfied with their living style except the difficulties that everyone faces in educating their child. With all the enthusiasm, club members initiated to help the farmers in the village in their farming work; cultivating appropriate cash crops to benefit them.



Agriculture Group

'Helping hand' members managed to donate several clothing to the needy families. All the beneficiaries expressed their happiness and gratitude for the support. The members even helped in transplanting, digging and preparing the paddy field.

Through this small form of charity, the family of Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic (JNP) aims to develop our community in and around the campus in realizing the wellbeing of community and to add our contribution towards realizing Gross National Happiness in a small manner. Apart from mission and vision of JNP, such services are the sign of Human Values

practiced by staff and students.

On another occasion, the enthusiastic agricultural club members, on 13th April, 2014 showed up to support the family at Shedra (A place nearby Dewathang) in carrying out the terracing work for a family who residing there. The club members having experience in growing vegetables and engaging in agricultural activities in campus, decided to provide the needy service towards community.



The place was quite sloppy which made cultivating difficult and costly. The family there was in need of much help in terms of ideas and techniques. The work was assisted by the Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative for Agricultural research and as per their guidance terraces were made. Terraces were commonly used to farm on hilly or mountainous terrain, as terraced fields decrease erosion and surface runoff, and supported growing crops that require irrigation.

The area proposed for terracing was large so it needed adequate manpower and the club members were basically working for it with the guidance from the SJI team. The piece of sloped plane had been cut into a series of successively receding flat surfaces or platforms, which resemble steps, for the purposes of more effective farming.

Thus, the agriculture club members of JNP rendered the help in the best interest towards community and wishes to provide any such support in future to benefit the people living around the campus.

By: **Puma & Lila Parsad, D1C**

## JNP Students Travel to Japan

**A**s part of the JENESYS 2.0 (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) program, two of us received a golden opportunity to travel to Japan. The JENESYS programme is aimed to:

- Strengthen the relationship between Japan and SAARC countries.
- Create awareness about Japanese culture and life styles.
- To promote potential interest towards Japan within the young generation.

This short-term Invitation programme includes three countries, namely Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka with 75 students from each country.

We started our journey on 9<sup>th</sup> March from Paro and arrived in Tokyo, Japan on 10<sup>th</sup> March. In the afternoon we visited the Imperial Palace built in 1888 which was destroyed by allied bombing during the Second World War, and the present complex was completed on 1968. The palace is open to the public only for two days each year that is January 2nd and December 23rd.

The next day we moved to Akihabara which is famous for its many electronics shops. Akihabara is also known as the center for global electronics technology and trade. They offer everything from the newest computers, televisions, cameras, mobile phones to second hand electronic junk. In the afternoon, we visited Senso-ji temple which is the oldest and the most impressive Buddhist temple in Tokyo.

On the 3rd day we went to Fukui through Maibara where we visited Bhutan Museum Fukui which was devoted exclusively to Bhutanese culture and history. The museum was established on 17th of November 2012 with a mission to create and educate public awareness among Fukui locals, Japanese tourists and to promote Japan- Bhutan friendship.

We then visited the Fukui Prefectural Government where we

met the Governor Nishikawa Issei who visited Bhutan in December 2013.



**Yeshi Tshering and Sonam Yangden with the Bhutanese delegates in Japan**

On the 4th day, we visited the Eye Glasses Museum and Takeuchi Optical Corporation. This corporation helps locals in creating job opportunities especially during the winter due to the heavy snowfall.

In the afternoon we went to Ikeda Town where we met with the local people. They were kind and generous. We performed some Bhutanese dances for them. They taught us how to make rice cake and bucket wheat noodle "SOBA".

On 14th of March we visited Fukui Prefectural University where we met with the students and exchanged our ideas with one another. We even took part in Green Tea ceremony and flower arrangement.

Later in the afternoon, we were sent to different host families for two days. There we learnt a lot about their culture and lifestyle. They took us to different places. One important lesson that we learned from them was the importance of "time". They were really warm, welcoming and polite.

On 18th of March we moved back to Bhutan and arrived in Paro on 19th March.

Lastly, we take this opportunity to thank the institute and all the staffs, RUB, Government of Bhutan and JENESYS for giving us such opportunity. Thank you for your kind support.

By: **Yeshe Tshering & Sonam Yangden ,D2C**

## Industrial Tour

**E**ducational visits to industries is a part of JNP curriculum and as part of this programme, students visit various companies, factories and industries to acquire additional practical skills through observation. The industrial visit also provides an insight into how companies function and provide useful information on practical aspects of the courses which otherwise cannot be experienced in a classroom setting. With an aim to go beyond academics, these visits are arranged to explore and develop the insights of the students' practical knowledge and its theoretical applications thereof.

Industrial visit is considered as one of the most tactical methods of teaching at JNP. This programme allow students to learn through interaction with the field expert, especially on the working methods and employment practices in the industries. Moreover, it also allows students to plan for their future career.

The 3-day industrial tour was in Pemagatshel dzongkhag, where there is a proposal for the construction of a new Dzong.

We were put up in the guest house at the site and we were provided with very warm hospitality. We visited the site where the new Pemagatshel Dzong was proposed to be constructed.

At the site, we learned about design, drawing, estimation and costing related to the construction. We were guided by Mr. Dawa Tshering (Asst. Lecturer) and Mr. Tshering Wangchuk (Lab Technician).

During the time of visit, construction work had already begun and it was going on in full swing. The proposed site is at *Denchi* village in Pemagatshel. Lately, the village has witnessed so many laborers deployed for the construction work. The labourers are also supported by people living around the community. *Denchi* is a remote village but is expected to see several constructions including the Dzong and therefore *Denchi* is expected to be transformed into a town soon.

It is also planned that after the Dzong is constructed, the present town will be moved to the location near the Dzong area.

By: **Students of D3C**



STAFF UPDATES		
New Appointment		Resignation/Retirement
Alakesh Sarmah (Asst. Lecturer, CED)	Sangay Dorji (Technician II, MED)	Dwarika Gotamay
Jyotismita Taye (Asst. Lecturer, CED)	Chorten Dorji (Jr. Engg./Estate Manager)	Bandita Barman
Doeraj Biswa (Asst. Lecturer, EED)	Tandin Tshewang (Driver)	Nibedita Bhuyan
	Sangay Dhendup (Security Guard)	Kelzang Norbu



Director welcoming Hon'ble Lyonpo Dorji Choden, Minister for Works and Human Settlement

## Hon'ble Minister of Works and Human Settlement visits JNP

The Hon'ble Minister of Works and Human Settlement, Lyonpo Dorji Choden visited the institute and granted audience to staff and students on 28th of April, 2014. This was Lyonpos' first visit to the institute after having been elected as a Minister. Lyonpo Dorji Choden is the first woman minister in Bhutan and also happens to be the nation's first woman engineer.

While addressing the faculty, staff and students, Lyonpo said that JNP is close to her heart and she always wanted to visit the institute. Lyonpo reminded the students that engineers should be innovative and bring about solutions to problems. She told that "Engineering is solving a problem and Engineering is innovation. If you work hard, there will always be a job for you". Lyonpo responded to some queries asked by staff and students to wind up the visit.

Lyonpo also thanked the Director, faculty, staff and students for the warm welcome and hospitality and also assured that the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement will collaborate with JNP and work towards contributing towards the socio-economic development of the country. Lyonpo said that JNP, as an engineering institution could provide various short term training/refresher courses to the practicing engineers/technicians from the Ministry, while JNP could benefit by availing appropriate resources from the Ministry.

The Hon'ble Minister also visited the facilities in the Civil Engineering Department, Central Library and the IT Department and left for Thrimshing, Trashigang on April of 29th, 2014.

Compiled by: **Sonam Jamtsho**, ICT Officer

### Volunteers from Academics Without Borders Canada (AWBC), Canada



Dr. Habib Rahman, with specialization in reinforced concrete and masonry design left the institute on Dec 2013, after serving for 6 months in Civil Engg department. He is currently working as a Professor in British Columbia Institute of Technology, Canada.



Mr. Peter Goodier, with specialization in Surveying left the institute on Dec 2013, after serving for 6 months in Civil Engineering department. He is working as a Land Surveyor in British Columbia, Canada.



# Programme Conducted by Peer Education Club

**P**eer Education is a model facilitated by the students, where students are informed about the risks and effects of challenges they face; motivated to change their unhealthy or risky behaviors and also provides skills and resources to do. The Peer model is particularly beneficial as students are more likely to listen and understand people of their own age regarding the issues. In this approach, the information is provided in a formal way based on research and proper training with matured advisor to ensure accurate material is disseminated.

Previously the Peer Education group members used to meet on Saturday and Wednesday afternoon on a regular basis but due to regular co-curricular activities held on Wednesdays the members could not manage proper time for the club as they were mostly engaged in other programmes. It was eventually decided that the members would get together on Saturday afternoons for training, planning, meetings and programmes. Elements of Peer Education model are discussed and the formats for the group to follow are developed where the participants are trained for the programme during the meeting.

This semester, eight students were trained; four are from the final year and other four are from the first year. The members are Mamta Rimal (coordinator), Prasanna Rimal, Sunita Rai, Nobin Mongar, Pema Yangtsho, Dorji Wangmo, Pema Lhaden and Anupbhav Dahal. Mr. Norbu Tshering, Dean (RIL) is the advisor to the club.

An awareness programme on '*healthy relationship*' was held on Wednesday afternoon in the institute MP hall and it was attended by the Director, DSA, faculty, staff and the students. The programme was aimed to create awareness on the importance of healthy relationship and awareness on substance

abuse and their effects. This topic was chosen keeping in mind the increasing number of suicide cases due to relationship problems. Such problems are most commonly observed in schools and colleges where youths fail to understand one another because of which they usually resort to committing crimes and harming themselves and therefore it was best to create awareness among the students. The programme focused on how to build a healthy relationship with self, friends, family, teachers, co-workers and other people we come across in our daily life. It also discussed some issues related with the failure to maintain healthy relationship which leads to emotional breakdown such as depression or suicide attempt or abusing substance as a substitute. Audience interaction was carried out in the form of question answer session where individuals from the audience were randomly picked to answer questions put up by the master of ceremony. Tips to maintain a healthy relationship were presented where it talked mostly about individual rights and respect for other's opinion and human values. Towards the end of the programme, the audience put forth their queries on the issue to the club members. The participation from the faculty and students was greatly appreciated.

It is evident that JNP family is committed towards the health and wellbeing of the students. As students needs to evolve over time, it is important for the institute to consider how their efforts can be modified to meet the changing needs of the students. While ideas in this report will not solve all of the arising issues, it is hoped that these observations and suggestions will be helpful in improving the student support services in the institute.

By:  
**Mamta Rimal** (D1CHN)  
(Coordinator)  
Peer Education Club

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