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Her Majesty The Queen Mother
Sangay Choden Wangchuck in
JNEC

Karma Yuden, DIECE

Her Majesty, The Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck visited the College on 9th of April 2017, as a part of High-Level Advocacy Tour. Her Majesty was accompanied by Minister of Works and Human

Settlement Lyonpo Dorji Choden, Education Secretary and other delegates, after meeting the people of Samdrup Jongkhar on the same mission. The High Level Nationwide Advocacy Program was aimed to build health awareness and growing social issues common in the current society. Her Majesty showed her concerns on the rising issues related to youth such as suicide, teenage pregnancy and substance abuse. Going by the statistics, students were informed, that 73 cases of suicides were

reported in an average yearly, which means 6 deaths every month mainly, caused by common issues such as family problems, sexual abuses, teenage pregnancies and depression. It was stated that substance abuse have increased rapidly since 2010 causing youths to lose their lives or family members. Rehabilitation was found as one of the quick solutions for decades and many have recovered fully. These people are now spreading awareness on drug abuse.

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Awareness on Drug Abuse and HIV Prevention Skills: A step towards a healthier future

Kalyan Kumar Chuwan, DIMPM

Drug abuse and creeping HIV is a recurring concern in the Country. It is shared that the issues mostly begin from teenage and youth population. In an effort to address and create awareness of these growing concerns, a team from Chithuen Phendey Association, led by Mr. Tenzin were in Jigme Namgyel Engineering College (JNEC) on 26th April 2017. The two-day awareness programme was aimed to train students who could further their efforts to fight against abusing drugs, through positive peer education.

On the first day, the team shared on the issues of HIV cases as well as substance abuse to the staff and students of the college. Towards the end of the day, they created a group C60 (Champion 60) con-



A member from Chithuen Phendey Association talking to students of JNEC.

Photo courtesy: Chithuen Phendey Association

sisting of 27 members that included members from Y-Peer and volunteers, whose sole responsibility is to help people recover from substance abuse.

On the second day, the team and the C60 members gathered at Samdrup Jongkhar town along with the students from Samdrup Jongkhar Middle Secondary School (SJMS) to have a talk on the consequences of drug abuse by the personnel from Regional Trade Office and Royal Bhu-

tan Police.

They mainly focused on the penalties for drug consumption, drug trafficking, and selling of alcohol against the regulation. As per Samdrup Jongkhar police, "Every year we come across 20 to 25 drug cases involving students." In addition to this, he also said that the rules are being followed accordingly to curb the issues.

After the talk, participants went around the town to create awareness amongst the shopkeepers and residents on penalties of drug abuse and selling alcohol against the regulation.

The day ended with satisfied faces of the participants. Tshering Dema, a student of SJMS said, "It was a good experience as I learnt more about rules on drug abuse and also it helped me gain confidence to talk to other people," Mr. Nima, a participant from the local community said "It was an amazing experience and we made a change."

Knowing Beyond Technical Modules with H.E Gyalwa Dokhampa

Yangchen Wangmo, DIM

It has always been a priority for Jigme Namgyel Engineering College to provide necessary resources and facilities in providing knowledge and skills for students. However, the College also gives equal importance in providing wholesome education for the students in order to make them well-educated rather than simply well-schooled. With this motive, the College welcomes and invites important and prominent figures or relevant stakeholders to talk about current affairs and related aspects beyond the textbooks and classroom learning.

With the 3rd visit by His Eminence Gyalwa Dokhampa on 31st -1st April 2017, faculty, staff and students got an opportunity to learn about Bardo (the intermediate state), Buddhist rituals for the dead and Tara prayers. His Eminence's teaching and regular visit has always benefitted the College as well as Dewathang community. Further, it has always been an opportunity for the College to learn different aspects which are



His Eminence Gyalwa Dokhampa offering Buddha Amitabha Prayers.

important for all walks of life.

His Eminence commenced with the introduction to Buddhism as an ethics of life for attaining patience and happiness which must come from within. After the teaching on Bardo by His Eminence, a first-year student shared "Now I knew what Bardo is. It is an intermediate state which occurs between death and rebirth."

An open panel discussion on Buddhist rituals for dead, was held in the evening. President of the College was the moderator and one participant from student, staff

and His Eminence participated in exchanging their beliefs and practices.

During the second day, His Eminence gave a teaching on Tara and simultaneously offered Tara prayers and gave blessings of Buddha Amitabha to JNEC family and to the local community.

The two-day programme concluded with the 36th belated Birth anniversary of His Eminence as a dedication and gratitude for his presence in the College and followed by cultural performances by the students and staff.

ELNAB: A Vision Towards Greener Future

Pradeep Gurung, DIMPM

Energy Efficient Lighting Education in Nepal and Bhutan (ELNAB) is a project undertaken by Jigme Namgyel Engineering College in collaboration with Universities from Europe and Nepal, co-founded by European Union under Erasmus+ Project. The overall objective of the project is to support Nepalese and Bhutanese Higher Education Institutions to provide education that promotes sustainable socio-economic development. The project aims to assist Nepal and Bhutan to reduce electricity consumption as well as greenhouse gas emissions through capacity building of human resources in the fields of energy efficient lighting systems.

The overall coordinator of the project is Aalto University in Finland and its partner Universities are ; Universite Toulouse III of France, National Technical University of Athens in Greece, Kathmandu University, Sagarmatha Engineering College and Nepal Engineering College in Nepal, and Jigme Namgyel Engineering College (JNEC).

JNEC is the leading organization to monitor the project activities in Bhutan, lead by Dr. Andu Dukpa as Legal Representative and Mr. Hemlal Bhattarai as the Project Manager for ELNAB project. The project consists of five work packages such as; project management and communication, needs assessment and awareness raising, development of new courses, pedagogical methods, lighting lab, accreditation of



ELNAB Participants with Chief Guest Dasho Chhewang Rinzin, Managing Director of Druk Green Power Corporation Limited .

courses, testing and training, and the dissemination, promotion, and collaboration with industries.

To fulfill these work packages , series of activities were planned and conducted. The preliminary task on project management and communication was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in the month of January, 2017 followed by need assessment and awareness raising seminar held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 10th March 2017 by JNEC.

During the seminar there were presentations from partner universities of Europe, Department of Renewable Energy (DRE) , industry representative from BCCI, and JNEC. The seminar was also attended by relevant stakeholders such as Bhutan Power Corporation Limited (BPCL), Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) and Bhutan Standard Bureau (BSB). The participants also include students from Jigme Namgyel Engineering College and College of Science and Technology.

Project Manager shared that this project fulfills one of the four pillars of Gross National Happiness (GNH) which is sustaina-

ble and equitable socioeconomic development. "The project is carried since hydro-power is the country's backbone for the socio-economic development and timely assessment on the efficient use of energy is important" he added.

The project manager also added, that the college is also working towards to infuse components of the project in the curriculum so as to provide necessary education in field of lighting and energy. The need assessment study was conducted as part of project and we are now working towards framing modules that are essentials based on the outcome of the need assessment study. Also with that, the Lighting Laboratory will also be developed within the year end which will be useful for academic and research work.

With an aim for Lighting and Energy Studies, Project Manager shared that there is a plan to establish Research Center in JNEC. Inline to that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between JNEC and DRE will also be signed soon.

STAFF UPDATES

New Appointments

Mr. Pema Wangchuk (Associate Lecturer, DHM)

Ms. Tshering Choki (Jr. Instructor, DCES)

VISITORS

NAME	DATE
HE Dasho Dr. Sonam Kinga, Chairman of National Council	20 th March, 2017
HE Gyalwa Dokhampa	31 st March -1 st April, 2017
Her Majesty the Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck	9 th April, 2017
Claudia Daza & Dr. Simon, Vrije University, Amsterdam, Netherland	17 th April, 2017
Hon. Auditor General, Dasho Tshering Kezang, Royal Audit Authority	21 st April, 2017
Hon. Vice Chancellor, Dasho Nidup Dorji	5 th May, 2017
Dr. Hitoshi Fujiwara, Waseda University, Japan	26 th - 27 th May, 2017

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck in JNEC

Teenage pregnancy is found to be the on rise compared to past days. Teenage pregnancy is 10% of the total number of pregnancies in the country which means many young girls are victim of sexual abuse and in that situation only solution they see is suicide. Therefore, Her Majesty showing deep concern has taken this effort to provide advocacy on such social issues across the nation. She encouraged and motivated the students stating that youth,

the nation's greatest assets should think about carrying the country forward to better future. "It was a very influencing and informative talk that Her Majesty and the officials shared. "We need to know about the country's current issues on youth and rising health issues with precautions to prevent those diseases" said Thinley Choden. Thereby such issues lead to the loss of normal life of the teenage girls.

Following Her Majesty's speech, the students had photo session with Her Majesty. Officials from the Ministry of Health, RENEW, National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) took students

through various presentation, about the roles of organizations in combating various social issues in the Country. As per Karma Dechen (secretary), RENEW is the organization which wants to help all the people irrespective of cast, gender and age. "I am glad that our country is doing so much for our youth. I want to thank Her Majesty for taking care of the youth and I wish her a long life" wished Ugyen Wangmo, a student of JNEC. The session ended with closing remark from Women Representative of Jigme Namgyel Engineering College, Tshering Choden and students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Her Majesty for the visit.

Consultative Meeting - Assuring Community Vitality

Kalyan Kumar Chuwan, Pradeep Gurung, & Kinga Tshering, DIMPM

On 3rd May 2017, Jigme Namgyel Engineering College (JNEC) and Dewathang community had the first consultative meeting to ensure mutual support and development to each other. JNEC as one of the higher learning institution in the eastern region also aspires to build healthy relations with its community to foster community related services. Considering as the objective of the institution in the community, the College felt the need to extend its linkages and support towards



Meeting with the Dewathang Community.

community and also allowing community to take active role in creating healthy living environment. Dewathang community also considers the College as an important

agent that provides education and professional services benefitting their livelihoods and helping in the growth of business community.

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Short Film Competition

Pradeep Gurung, DMPM

On 6th May 2017, the Media Club of Jigme Namgyel Engineering College organized a short film competition among the staff and students in the col-



lege for people passionate about making films. This was the first time that the College had organized such a programme to advocate on the impact of alcohol and drugs initiated by the Media Club of the College. The general theme for the short filmmaking competition was "Alcohol drowns happiness". There were four films each of them streamlining towards the main theme and the duration of the film was 15 minutes. The films were "The story of my life, Gawa Mathob, Alcohol ruins everything and The Silly Reason". The competition saw a mixture of talents shown by staff and students.

Three films were directed by students' team namely; "The story of my life", "Gawa Mathob", "The Silly Reason" and "Alcohol Ruins Everything" by staff.

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Open JNEC football tournament

Rinchen Dema, DIM

As there is a saying “All work and no play makes jack a dull boy.” Thus, academic learning and sports has always been an integral part for the development of students. Sports is one of the important subset of academic curriculum which helps in developing students’ overall personality. It develops the qualities such as leadership, sharing, team spirit, tolerance, will power and other life skills.

With an aim to develop students holistically, college organizes various games and sports tournament for the students as well as for general public. Therefore, on 23rd February till 18th March 2017, JNEC Open Football Tournament was organized with the theme, “Empowering youth through sports”. The college first orga-



JNEC team striving for a goal.

nized the event in the year 2015 and this is the third time the college is organizing such program.

18 teams from various regions participated in the tournament. Dechen Dorji, Games & Sports Coordinator shared that “Football is a game which we can play in a group, interact in large and have a good social relation”. Such program not only

helps us maintain a good relation with outsiders but also leads the institution to be recognized.” Also, the ultimate aim of such tournament is to engage youth in games and sports and distracting them from substance abuse and life threatening activities.

During the tournament team Sherubtse and JNEC were winningest to reach final

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Social Service as co-curricular Activity

Sonam Lhamo, DIMPM

On 22nd March, 2017 the students of JNEC, initiated by the councilors gathered to render social service in the community. The theme of the service was titled “Helping the needy farmers”. Led by Chief Councilor, students gathered at 1:00 pm and formed groups to help families in Sib, under Dewathang gewog. It is located 5 kilometers away from the College campus and the village lack proper road facilities.

Villagers in that area, face difficulty in transporting goods and materials. Yangden and 60 years old Namgay shared that they find difficulty in reaching construction materials due to poor road facilities and inadequate labor, for building their house.

Therefore students were involved in providing social service to these two families by helping to gather construction materials and help in laying foundation. Both were delighted beyond words to have unexpected support from the students



Students collecting construction materials.

who were found so generous in uplifting their house.

“I am delighted to be useful for someone who is in dire need of help. I also learnt the vitality of such social strength of students towards the community which we often forget in this modern times” said Nirpa Raj, one of the councilors. He aspires to explore the possibilities of such social services and wishes to plan and take active part in future.

One of the participants, Jigme Ugyen Tenzin said that without such help it must

have been really difficult for them to meet the basic necessities of living. Though the day was tiring, he felt gratified for having provided genuine help.

Having rendered arduous support, it certainly gave all the participants a real life experience of hardship and realization of strength of unity to help needy people. However Yangden and Namgay expressed their joy and contentment for receiving heartfelt effort, for a worthy cause.

JNEC marked the World Down Syndrome Day

Kinga Tshering, DIMPM

Every year 21st March is celebrated as the World Down Syndrome Day and the theme for this year was 'My Voice, My Community'. For the first time, Jigme Namgyel Engineering College observed the day with an initiative from Ability Bhutan Society. Down syndrome, also known as trisomy 21 is a condition where individuals have 47 chromosomes in each cell instead of 46, where a person possesses a distinct physical feature and some degree of cognitive disability.

In order to improve the lives of people with Down syndrome, JNEC observed the day to create awareness and make a better place for them to live. The day started with an awareness talk by the President of the College, Dr. Andu Dukpa, screening of a video on Down syndrome by JNEC Media Club, and a brief talk by JNEC Y-Peer member. The talks highlighted the importance of the day and also mentioned about providing equal opportunity and facilities for the people with Down syndrome. The President of the College during his talk stated that in the past people with Down syndrome were looked down by the society. However, it is being improved although the country lacks in providing advanced facilities. Therefore it was a food for



Advocacy on Down Syndrome to Local community by students.

thought to all the future engineers (students) that special facility while availing public transport and other amenities should be introduced for these section of people.

Further, the members of the club went around the community to spread the message and making the voice of the Down syndrome to be heard and make their lives comfortable. Sonam Yangchen, a student in JNEC said that, she came to know about the Down syndrome through the awareness programme and added that it is beneficial for the society and helpful for the well-being of the people with Down syndrome. Dawa Tshering, 42, shared that the aware-

ness program has extended his knowledge about the Down syndrome. He also said that this sort of programme should be held in every society to create awareness. While a 60-year-old Housewife, Rinzin realized that she should not ignore people with Down syndrome rather help them and also said it was an eye opener for her.

The programme was successful in creating awareness to the people, and President Dr. Andu Dukpa said; "We should all create such awareness and everyone should know about the Down syndrome."

"Every child is a different kind of flower and altogether makes the world A Beautiful Garden"- Media Club.

Consultative Meeting - Assuring Community Vitality

The consultative meeting was aimed to maintaining good cooperation with the community and to enable two parties to engage in information sharing, explore opportunities for common interests and support activities that are mutually beneficial. The President of the College, Dr. Andu Dukpa restated that the College solicits necessary support and cooperation from the community to achieve its goals.

During the meeting, discussions were made on identifying opportunities for mutual growth, issues that concerned both the parties and also suggested possible solutions to remedy these issues. The meeting

also gave an avenue to discover benefits of both the parties. The meeting agreed to promote and supply organic and dairy products from the local community to the College to help the local farmers and cooperatives grow.

Another important discussion was to inform community, to either refrain or discourage selling of alcohol to the students, which is the main cause of disciplinary issues in the College and miscreants in the community. The College also found the possibility of providing research and consultancy services to the community in developing off-campus private housing facilities for the staff and students.

Tashi, one of the participants said that the meeting was an effective way for both the

parties to interact and know how they can benefit mutually. The Dean of Student Affairs, Karma Drukpa said that in the past the College and community were not really working together in certain areas where they could benefit. The meeting has inspired to conduct such programmes in future too, as it helps in developing a harmonious community. Such programmes would also help in maintaining discipline and conduct of students with the minimization of the sales of alcohol, he added. As a closure, the participants were taken for a campus tour and showed them the resources and facilities available within the College.

A Training on Total Station and LISCAD

Nima Tshering, DIC

The introduction of specialized programmes in the college at Diploma level such as Surveying, Materials and Procurement Management along with other engineering programmes has provided wider avenue besides educating the students. It has seen broader scope in training technical professionals (engineer, procurement and stores manager, surveyors) of various organizations across the country.

The college with strengthened human capacity has organized several trainings as a part of professional development for engineers on Project Management, Construction Management and Site Supervision in 2016. Similarly a training programme on 'Surveying with Total Station and LISCAD' was held from 3rd to 7th April, 2017. The programme was organized by the Civil Engineering and Surveying Department. According to the Training Coordinator, Mr. Sanjit Bhattacharai, "the main objective of such a program is to educate technical



Training participants and resource persons with President and Dean of JNEC

personnel in the country on the latest surveying instrument, its application with upgraded features to measure slope, measure horizontal distance and mapping, which are essential based on the geographical landscape of the country."

In the statement of participants, the training programme was found resourceful and enriching, which imparted knowledge and skills that were hardly explored in their actual working field. The program was compounded with theoretical and practical

sessions to make learning more realistic and in context.

The 22 participants included technical professionals from two Dzongkhags (Bumthang & Dagana) and the programme concluded on 7th April, 2017. The college has future plans to initiate such training programme in diverse field including computer networking, procurement management and in engineering.

Helping hand : a club for better community

*Kalyan Kumar Chawan
and Kinga Tshering, DIMPM*

Waste management has always been a serious and unavoidable problem in Dewathang community. To minimize this problem the Helping hand club has taken an initiative of cleaning the community once a week. Every Sunday, the club members' start their cleaning campaign from the college's IT building till the main town. The work starts as early as six in the morning and it last for an hour.

They also render social services such as house repairing, constructing toilets and helping them in the fields to those who are economically backward and donate them with necessary items such as stationaries and clothing. The club tries to find such people in the community and help them.



JNEC Helping Hand Club members with one of the beneficiaries.

On 28th May 2017, the club came to know about disadvantage family in Rishaw (Coal mining area). So, the club members went there and donated clothes to the residents. On asking one of the club members, Churamuni, he said that such initiative not only helps in the resident's living standard but also helps strengthens the relationship of college with the society.

The beneficiary said, "I have never ex-

pected someone to help us like this. It is indeed a blessing for me and my kids that the college bestowed upon us." She further said that she was really thankful to the college and the club for helping them.

The program ended with happy smiles on the face of participants. "I really feel happy after helping them and hoping to further help them in near future." Thinley Wangmo, participant shared.

Short Film Competition

Despite the lack of filming and acting knowledge, the experiences earned through such endeavour in filmmaking became an opportunity for team members to improve in future. "I am really happy for having such a competition as this gave me the opportunity to showcase

What I have deep down in my heart," said Thinley Wangmo one of the Producers.

The film directed and produced by staff was awarded the best among the other. The producer of the film Mr. Sonam Jamtsho said that it was really interesting to experience in making a film and above all award had been encouraging factor for his team though they mentioned that filmmaking task was not as easy as assumed.

The awards were decided by judges score and viewers vote. The film "Alcohol ruins everything" directed by Mr. Jamyang Tashi was awarded the best film by the judges and the movie "Gawa Mathob" secured the highest vote from the viewers. The participants of both the films were awarded certificates. Thus, the students and staff look forward to participate in such events which gives an additional avenue to students besides their studies.

Open JNEC football tournament

teams' attitude, maturity and dedication were exceptional. However Team Sherubtse took away the victory trophy

and an amount of Nu.70,000 after a fearsome battle of 90 minutes managing to gain 1-0. Eventually team JNEC took away the runners up prize of Nu.35000. Mr Phub Thinley of JNEC team said, "Though we could not manage the first place, I am happy that we reached the final. We are hoping to sweat more and emerge at the top in

the next tournament".

Many spectators said that it is a good way of spending their leisure time after long hours of work and they are looking forward for such programs to be held in the future. The organizers said that they are also very pleased to conduct such a program and wish to organize in the future with the expectation of having more number of partici-

International Training Week at Bialystok University of Technology

Sonam Lhamo, DIMPM

The President, one faculty and two staff from Jigme Namgyel Engineering College participated in the International Training Week organized by the Bialystok University of Technology (BUT) in Poland from 15th-19th May 2017.

During the International training week, 31 universities from 23 countries such as Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, China, Egypt, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Morocco, Moldova, Nepal, Serbia, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Vietnam participated in the event.

On the first day of the week, participants were officially welcomed by BUT Rector Prof. Lech Dzienis and presentation on BUT and their good practices. The event comprises of teaching for faculty, a workshop for administrative staff, meeting with faculty and presentation on respective uni-



From the left: JNEC Students on semester away programme in BUT with President and Staff.

versities. It was a great opportunity for the participants from the various universities to meet and develop collaborations and initiatives in many aspects such as exchange for teachers and students and joint research projects.

The International week had a special lecture on Gross National Happiness inspired higher education in Bhutan by the Presi-

dent of the College, Dr. Andu Dukpa. The talk was an inspiration for the participants and most of them aspired to adopt the philosophy. Apart from academic and administrative related work, the participants were also taken for a city tour, trip to a countryside "Supraśl" and showed beautiful Polish customs and cuisine of Podlasie.

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