igme Namqyel Engineering College

Keeping the External Linkages and its Activities Alive during COVID-19

Team JNEC Wins National Hackathon Meet

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

Page 5

Page 6

Strengthening Linkages



# Bi-annual Newsletter JNEC INSIGHTS Keeping you informed



Dasho Neten Zangmo addressing students and staff during JNEC's 1<sup>st</sup> Innovation Day held on  $21^{st} - 23^{rd}$  February, 2020

# Guest Lecture on "Safety and Reliability Engineering" Norbu Tshering, Asst. Professor

n March 4, 2020, the College had a guest lecture session on Safety and Reliability Engineering, delivered by Professor Marek Mtynczak from Department of Technical Systems Operation and Maintenance of Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Poland. The session

was organized by the Department of Mechanical Engineering for the students pursuing Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering.

Guest lectures have become an important component of the modern education system to include variety and change of teaching tactics and to strengthen learning teaching strategies. The inclusion of such strategies has broadened the educational experiences and exposure of academics. In an effort to support students learning, the College has been organizing guest lectures, by engaging many experts, visiting the college, and through collaboration with international universities.

Professor Marek expressed his delight of interacting with the first batch of students pursuing Bachelors of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering.

He emphasized the importance of designing a reliable product in any manufacturing company. It was shared that the reliability of a product is the probability that the product will perform an expected (desired) function without failure for a given time, at a desire confidence level under specific operating and environmental conditions. He also showed the relationship between reliability and the cost of a product using the concept of the bathtub curve. He pointed out that learning the life cycle and processes of the product is necessary to evaluate the reliability, which includes processes such as valuation, design, manufacturing, operation, and



Prof. Marek Mtynczak delivering lecture to the students of Department of Mechanical Engineering

product withdrawal from the use. He stated that a product fails under certain conditions such as early failure, sudden failure (overstress, crash or accident) and wear out (physical degradation).

The lecture highlighted the importance of including maintenance cost of any unreliable element, the manufacturing cost of reliable elements, cost of operational process, distribution of time in its given states and strength, and load failure model.

# **Recitation of Medicine Buddha: A Prayer** to Heal Suffering

# Pema Wangchuk, Assoc. Lecturer

he spread of COVID-19 across the world in recent time has become a serious concern leading to unconceivable impact globally, and Bhutan is no exception. To curb the spread of this deadly virus, the Royal Government of Bhutan has been implementing various preparedness programmes since

the beginning of the year. Considering massive efforts taken in the country, Jigme



JNEC recites a total of 683,595 Medicine Buddha Mantra, from March 24 till April 30, 2020. Photo Courtesy : Dari Rulai Temple

Namgyel Engineering College has also initiated numerous preventive measures to collectively support the nation in responding to the current situation. One such measure was the recitation of Medicine Buddha, a spiritual practice for holistic healing.

In Buddhism, any forms of suffering, practices of spiritual healing is considered sacred to eradicate the misfortune and accumulate positive energy for the wellbeing of all living beings. With deep faith, the College, therefore, has initiated recitation of Medicine Buddha for 38 days from March 24 to April 30 2020.

#### **Strengthening International Linkages**

Dheynay Zangmo, Asst. Lecturer

igme Namgyel Engineering College has been effectively engaged with Erasmus+ Program with Wroclaw University of Science and Technology (WUST), Poland since 2017. Through the exchange programme, the students had opportunities develop international to exposure through semester away programmes in Europe.

Currently, there are two, Third Year students from Bachelors of Engineering in Power Engineering at Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Poland, and four Second Year students of Bachelors of Engineering in Power Engineering at Bialystok University of Technology, Poland, for a semester away programme.

On March 2, 2020, two scholars, Prof. Marek Mlynczak from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Prof. Robert Andrzej Lis from the Department of Electrical Engineering visited the College, to reinforce the relationship and for scholastic purpose.



Prof. Robert Andrzej Lis delivered a lecture on "Renewable Energy System," and Prof. Marek Mlynczak delivered on "Safety and Reliability Engineering. The two professors visited facilities at Department of Electrical Engineering and Department of Mechanical Engineering with the view to assess the resources and areas of future collaborations. They also assessed the educational programme of the two departments and gave input to improve academic quality.

The Professors also interacted with students who had undergone an exchange program in

WUST, Poland for a semester in 2019. The students gave their feedback and shared their learnings through this exchange programme.

The objective was to have a superior comprehension of the issues faced by international students to implement better methodologies to improve future collaboration. The Professors also visited the Office of Vice-Chancellor, Thimphu, to study the

possibility of reinforcing the linkages and to develop advance research projects.

The College's association with international organizations is always a priority to have quality education in the field of applied engineering, information technology and management.

Currently, JNEC has ties with institutions from India, Finland, France, Poland, Greece, Canada, Russia, South Korea, Malaysia, Romania, Lithuania, Netherlands, Australia, Thailand, Japan and Nepal.

# **Obstacle Detection and Video Surveillance Robot - Innovation Day**

NEC Robotics Lab had been established with the help of e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative, hosted by IIT Bombay. The lab provides basic hands-on training

Research & Innovation

and concepts of Robotics to students.

Coinciding with the 40<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the

King and commemoration of the 46<sup>th</sup> College Foundation Day on February 21, 2020, JNEC Robotics team showcased "Obstacle Detection and Video Surveillance Robot" on the first ever Innovation day held with the theme, "Creating Platform, Harnessing Innovation".

The Robot was designed using Microcontroller Atmega 2560. It was programmed to follow the white line and automatically detect any Bevek Subba, Assoc. Lecturer

obstacle in the front. A webcam placed on the Robot enabled a

viewers to surveil from any corner of the world using IoT driven STEMSEL board. With this approach, an efficient organization of parking space and systematic public transport system without human intervention can be achieved.

The robot was designed to create an awareness on Intelligent Transportation System Management and ignite Anti-theft idea using Artificial Intelligence. The robotics team shared that, it's a progress made towards achieving a small element of Smart City.

Nima Yoezer, a graduate student from Diploma in Computer System and Network was involved in the process of developing this project out of his passion in the field of robotics even after his graduation.



Demonstration of Obstacle Detection & Video Surveillance Robot

### **Recitation of Medicine Buddha: A Prayer to Heal Suffering**

The practices of Medicine Buddha is considered a healing means in Buddhism to eliminate the suffering of all kind and generate good health. The initiative is also as per the advice from the Central Monk Body of Bhutan (*Zhungdratshang*) where the public, in general, are shared on the spiritual benefits of reciting Medicine Buddha in such time of the pandemic. The staff volunteers jointly contributed to the recitation program and the daily count was updated to the National Council of Bhutan by the President of the College. The College provided a total of 683,595 recitation count dedicated for the wellbeing of all sentient beings.

The recitation program concluded, with the offering of 108 butter lamps followed by *Zangchoe Monlam* (The King of Aspiration

Prayer) and *Mar mei*<sup>2</sup> (Light offering Prayers) Monlam. Initiated by the President of the college, this spiritual program is a part of important *Kurim* for the peace and prosperity of the country and quick recovery from COVID-19 situation in the country and across the world.



Reflections on Research internship at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland

am a faculty in Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying and I got an opportunity to undergo research internship at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland from November 2019 till January 2020. The mobility was a part of collaboration, commissioned by the

Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) with ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences as a leading house for bilateral research collaboration with partner institutions in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

My research proposal on "Impact of Climate

#### Vasker Sharma, Assoc. Lecturer

change on the operation of Hydropower in Bhutan" was accepted by a Senior Researcher in the field of Hydraulics and Hydrology at EPFL and subsequently invited me for the internship.

During the course of research at EPFL, I worked rigorously on developing a hydrological model of the Punatshangchu basin, located in central Bhutan. The model can be used to understand the operation of hydropower projects, with respect to changing climate. As a part of my research, I also got an opportunity to visit two hydropower dams in Switzerland, and understood its operation.

I acquired experience and knowledge on the aspects of structural and hydraulic components of the dam.



Visit to Dam Site with Scientist and Lecturer of EPFL

During my internship, the Lecturers and Scientists of EPFL, also expressed their interest for future collaboration.

Besides the lab works, I took an excursion to various UNESCO-heritage sites, medieval castles, and churches to explore the classic European architectures. The stay in Switzerland was a learning experience, for it allowed me to explore different cultures and traditions besides knowing the technological advancement in research.

#### Keeping the External Linkages and its Activities Alive during COVID-19

#### Hemlal Bhattarai, Dean of Research & Industrial Linkages

igme Namgyel Engineering College has been actively engaged in its plans and roadmaps for continuous actions in maintaining research and external linkages active.

International

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered planned activities in almost all sections of the society,

yet the college has been constantly working in innovative approaches to keep its academic and research, active and impactful. The core approaches these days is to achieve the deliverables, using an online platform.

Despite the closure of the college and sealing of international borders, formulation of collaborative project proposals, engagement in professional capacity development, providing expert services, research, and networking through digital platforms in recent times has been fruitful. Some of the activities carried out during the closure of the institutes were towards:

- 1. Introduction of STEMSEL
- In-house Workshop on Excelling at Workplace, and
- 3. International Workshop on "Clean Energy Applications-Prospects and Perspectives."

The above activities were provided to ensure continued commitment to community services, engage in meaningful external linkages, and promote valuable knowledge and skills to the society.

The recently organized international workshop on "Clean Energy Applications – Prospects and Perspectives" by the Centre of Lighting and Energy Efficiency Studies (CLEES), JNEC was resourced by Assistant Professor, Dr. Sesha S. Srinivasan, Department of Natural Sciences, Florida Polytechnic University, USA. It was focused to introduce and discuss the prospects and perspectives of clean energy applications, particularly applications relevant to lighting, energy efficiencies and energy storage. Prospects for the sustainable life on our fragile planet Earth was highlighted. This particular online international workshop brought in more than 100 participants from Bhutan and abroad. Besides, the college has plans for other such online international activities shortly.

Some of those international training programmes are TORMP-2020 organized by Eudoxia India, International Web Conference CHEC-2020 organized by Bialystok University of Technology, Poland, and International Webinar on Post- COVID-19 Socio-economic Challenges, organized by IQAC, and N C (A) College, Jaipur, India.

The College has been actively participating as a resource person for an international conference, training programme and webinar which provided an avenue to promote network for experts/academicians/scholars across the globe.



Mr. Hemlal Bhattarai, Speaker for Online Conference, CHEC2020, Bialystok University of Technology, Poland. Photo Courtesy : Facebook Page of Bialystok University of Technology

3

# Team JNEC Wins National Hackathon Meet

### Younten Tshering, Assoc. Lecturer

Faculty and some graduates of Diploma in Computer System and Network under the Department of Information and Technology participated in Bhutan Code Challenge 2019 – Hackathon, under the name Team JNEC. The challenge was organized for the second time by Bhutan Innovation and Technology Centre (BITC), Thimphu TechPark, December 21 & 22, 2019. Hackathon is a marathon of codes where groups of computer

is a marathon of codes where groups of computer programmers, gather and find a solution to given problems through technologies in a given frame of time. There were a total of 47 participants from 11 teams comprising of four to five members in each team. Each team was assigned with five problems and had to work on them within a period of two days. On the second day, each team presented their result to the judges and audience. Their solutions were judged based on sustainability, execution, user interface/user experience, originality, impact and code review. Team Jigme Namgyel Engineering College (JNEC) was awarded first prizes for the project 'Organization Approval System'. This system was designed to be effective and efficient in paperless documentation and prove time-saving for the organization.

Team JNEC also participated in 30 hours Bhutan Startup Hackathon Challenge organized by Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment



Team JNEC receiving Winning Award from Hon'ble Minister of Labour & Human Resources

Division (ESED), Department of Employment and Human Resources, Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (MOLHR) in collaboration with Bhutan Telecom Limited from January 31, 2019, till February 2, 2020. The event aimed to provide a platform for fresh ideas, with necessary tools to stimulate creativity and innovative solutions, against the problem faced by the citizens, catered through innovative tech products. From 19 teams registered, 17 teams joined the event. The teams could work on any of the themes listed below:

Problem Statement 1: Development of a simple BI dashboard

Problem Statement 2: Revenue Reconciliation

#### System

Problem Statement 3: Rebranding/Redesign of Bhutan Telecom website www.bt.bt.

The award ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Human Resources, Ugyen Dorji and officials from MoLHR and Bhutan Telecom Limited.

Team JNEC bagged the first prize for the theme, Development of a simple BI dashboard and they expressed the significance of such platforms to help create awareness on the importance of digital technology and motivate young minds to equip with problem-solving skills through digital language.

VISITOR LIST		
Visitors	Date	
Ms. Tytti Laura Matleena and PBL team, Aalto University of Technology, Finland	March 3, 2020	
Prof. Robert Andrzej Lis & Prof. Mlynczak Marek Jan; Wroclaw University of Science and Technology (WUST), Poland.	March 2, 2020	
Japanese Delegate lead by Prof. Hajime Shirai	February 20, 2020	
Mr. Tashi Namgay, Director, National Land Commission Secretariat, Thimphu, Bhutan	February 14, 2020	
Mr. Nima Gyeltshen, Executive Director, Bhutan Jamchog Thuendrel Foundation, Thimphu, Bhutan	February 13, 2020	

# STAFF UPDATE

# NEW APPOINTMENT

Mr. Gempo Dorji, Cook, Estate Mr. Mitse Phuntsho, Cook, Estate

Mr. Yeshi Jamtsho, Cook, Estate

III. Tesht bumisho, Cook, Estate

Mr. Tshewang Gyeltshen, Security Guard, Estate

Mr. Dorji, Security Guard, Estate

RESIGNATION

Mr. Tshendu Chogyel, Cook, Estate

Ms. Kinley Wangmo, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Humanities & Management

4

July, 2020

# An Account on 'New Normal' Learning

Rangjung Dorji, BEPE

s an advance preventive measure against the COVID-19, all the academic institutions across the country. Adhering to the regulation, Jigme Namgyel Engineering College was closed on March 18, 2020 and all students were sent away from the college until further notice to adopt to new normal. As a student, the

challenges are on the altered ways to learning. The new way of virtual learning through online platform was never a piece of cake to most of us, yet it also made us realize the importance of independent learning and being responsible for self. To keep the wheel of learning on, as a learner, my sheer responsibility was to adjust and adapt to the online learning.

The online learning platform although were implemented partially, it was not explored extensively. It took quite a while for tutors and students to get fully acquainted to this new way of learning. Situation has therefore compelled to embrace this new normal of teaching and learning platforms despite frequent challenges. The concerns were mostly related to network coverage across the country to effectively learning online and cost of data packages for students. The Government, Office of Vice-Chancellor, College Management, and individual faculty did take various measures to support in overcoming obstacles and enabling students to spent time meaningfully and learn smoothly. Using online conference through Zoom, we participated in online seminars and project reviews. Numerous assessments for assignments such as presentation, viva voce and written works were also carried out over online



considering active feedback and reflection from both tutors and students. It is soul-stirring to recollect the experience of the new form of teaching-learning as we have some friends attending online classes in the field; helping their parents to plough field and some attending their classes in the midst of herding their cattle. In fact Spring Semester 2020 provided unique experience for all of us, although unfortunate it allowed us to explore and learning in most creative manner. Although learning is evident, it was disconsolate, seeing most of our final year students missing their final semester moments in the college. Otherwise, understanding this critical time, as a Bhutanese, it is far important to take responsibilities to take preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

Aside my regular online classes, I could get access to online course on Sexual Reproductive

Health and Rights (SRHR) and Genderbased Violence for Y-PEER Bhutan and got opportunity to be one of the facilitators for the course. This is a part of ongoing online activities initiated by Y-PEER Bhutan with the support from Department of Youth and Sport and United Nations Population Fund-UNFPA. This has been initiated mainly to keep the members of Y-PEER engaged meaningfully in the country.

Despite bearing the significant impact COVID-19, I must say that Bhutanese citizens are fortunate to be born under the dynamic leadership of His Majesty the King, where he was on the front-line, safeguarding the people of Bhutan living in and out of the country. His Majesty's farsightedness and blessings from almighty have kept Bhutan safe in the midst this global crisis.

## **Automatic Hand Sanitizer Dispenser**

Bevek Subba, Assoc. Lecturer s a part of a mini-project, in response to COVID-19 pandemic, JNEC Robotics Lab members designed and fabricated an Automatic Hand-Sanitizer dispenser.

> This paves way for organizations to set up hand sanitizer dispenser stations and encourage its users. Currently, the dispenser

is located and used by the Department of

Campus

Furthermore, online basic robotics classes are were taken for the interested students and staffs. The session was intended to engage and encourage interested students to pursue their

Electrical Engineering as a pilot project.

passion for robotics.

The JNEC Robotics Lab aims to create an environment where students and staff from any background can work together and design a robot that would help the society at a large. The robotic lab facility can be availed by students and staffs for projects, as a part of their curriculum practical or research development.



" Science can amuse and fascinate all, but it is Engineering that changes the world."

Issac Asimov

### Study on Sustainable Waste Management in Bhutan

#### Phurba Tamang, Assoc. Lecturer

sessions to apprehend the waste mismanagement within Thromde.

Secondary School). Field trips to the landfill site, Chokyi Gyatsho Institute, and Samdrup Jongkhar Town were organized to interact with

he Project on Sustainable Waste Management in Bhutan was initiated as a collaboration between Aalto University, Finland, and Jigme Namgyel Engineering College, Royal University of Bhutan. It was initiated a part of the Problem Based Learning South Asia Project cofounded by the Erasmus+ Programme of

the European Union.

The student team, Studio Sajo from Aalto University, Finland worked collaboratively with the student team from Jigme Namgyel Engineering College for approximately two weeks (March 3-12, 2020) in which the teams worked closely on developing sustainable waste management information packs and recommendation for the Thromde (Municipal) and local communities. The teams involved in several brainstorming and ideation



Mentor and Students of Aalto University, Finland and JNEC Working on PBL Project Photo courtessy: Studio Saio, Aalto University, Finland

The teams also collaboratively worked with the community and engaged various stakeholders such as Samdrup Jongkhar Thromde (municipal corporation), Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative (CSO), and the schools (Dewathang Primary School & Garpawoong Middle



Field visit to the Landfill Site, Samdrup Jongkhar Picture courtesy:Studio Sajo, Aalto University, Finland

the locals, workers, and experts to get more insights into the waste management protocols and in placed waste management strategies.

After two weeks of tireless work, the final event was wrapped out with an exhibition. The event discussed the 5 W's and H Questions on waste management through board games, tiny books of post-its, and poster presentation. The event was attended by the staff and students of JNEC, Officials from SJI, and teachers from primary and secondary schools. Furthermore, the findings and recommendations from this project will be made available through information packages for the Thromde, SJI, community schools, and JNEC.

As this PBL project was initiated to Strengthen Problem Based Learning in South Asian Universities, Jigme Namgyel Engineering College has started implementing PBL methodology into the curriculum.

# JNEC STEMSEL and it's Developmental Activities

#### Sangay Chedup, Lecturer

epartment of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Jigme Namgyel Engineering College in collaboration with STEMSEL Foundation, Australia, started a project by the

*Campus Stories stories* title, "COVID-19 Online Baby Sitting", since early March this year, to engage the children in learning STEM AI and IoT technology. The project is in collaboration with Dr. Peng Choo and Dr. Miroslay Kostecki, STEMSEL Foundation.

Dr. Miroslav Kostecki, STEMSEL Foundation, Adelaide Australia.

The project creates a platform for children to learn electronic programming on STEMSEL microchips and develop AI and IoT applications on runlinc; a webpage-based AI and IoT development platform. The objective of the project is to bring forward, children's creativity out of hibernation and create as many STEM AI and IoT technopreneurs.

Besides, it is to create a platform for STEM AI Social Business (SASB) startups, and to be a part of Dr. Muhammad Yunus model of 3 Zeroes (Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment and Zero Carbon Emission).

Currently, Mr. Sonam Pema Thinley and Mr. Nima Yoezer; a student and a graduate of Electronics and Communication Engineering and Computer System and Network are part of JNEC STEMSEL team. They are engaged in conducting online classes for students not only from Bhutan but also Australia, Cameroon, Uganda, Malaysia, and Nigeria. JNEC STEMSEL Team is also guiding Mr. Horas, a student from Uganda, in prototyping 40 units of Automatic Hand Sanitizer Dispenser for UNESCO using runlinc.

The project is further extended with University Putra Malaysia, MAHSA University, Malaysia, Sri Lanka Technological Campus, Sri Lanka,



From top left: Mr. Nima Yoezer(Alumni), Mr. John David Philips (Australia), Mr. Sonam Pema Thinley (Student), Ms. Mirenelli with her mother(Australia), Dr. Miroslav Kostecki (Australia), Ms. Cerene Denzin (Student, Druk School Thimphu)

Malaysian Global Innovations and Creativity Centre (MAGIC), KESAB, Australia, Politeknik Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia and IoT and AI experts from Indonesia and Philippines. JNEC intends to establish better collaboration towards reaching IoT STEM AI technology to education process in Bhutan. *cont. page 7* 



### JNEC STEMSEL and it's Developmental Activities

Through this collaborative project, JNEC is provided with a free slot in the Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX2020), Malaysia to pitch SASB model. All these ongoing activities are an effort to give a platform to our youth and enhance graduate employability.

STEMSEL JNEC aspires to open a Dr. Yunus Social Business Centre (YSBC) in JNEC campus to cater to SASB startups inspired by Dr. Yunus social business build on AI and IoT technologies for social good.

As part of capacity development and collaboration, JNEC STEMSEL has been initiating webinars and workshops. On March 13, 2020, a workshop was conducted by the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) in collaboration with Dr. Peng Choo, CEO of STEMSEL

Foundation, Australia for students pursuing a diploma in ECE and interested faculty and staff of JNEC. Similarly, a webinar was conducted on May 21, 2020, in association with MAHSA University, Malaysia, STEMSEL Foundation, Australia, and Institutions of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Further, Ms. Srijana Gajmer, Associate Lecturer in ECE department and a member in JNEC STEMSEL; initiated 'STEMSEL Women in Leadership-Bhutan'. This initiative aims to provide a platform for young enthusiastic Bhutanese, to learn, share, and develop projects using runlinc, that suit the context of Bhutan and applies principles and values of Gross National Happiness.

On May 11, 2020 and on two other occasions,

of educating online.

Many felt uneasy

although nature of

online learning is not



STEMSEL-JNEC along with collaborator STEMSEL Foundation, Australia were LIVE with Radio Italia UNO, Adelaide, Australia in the morning show, Happy Business Radio.

On June 27, 2020, JNEC in collaboration with University Putra Malaysia organized an International webinar "Fighting AI Wealth Concentration with AI by creating AI Social Business". The event was supported by STEMSEL Foundation, Australia and the Institutions of Engineering and Technology.

# **Online Classroom Experience – DMPM Students' Perspective** Compiled by Parashuram Sharma, Asst. Professor

he outbreak of COVID-19 has brought massive changes on global health, education system and the progress of socio-economic development. It has altered the living styles of societies across the world and ways it is perceived. New norms and orders were designed

as strategic measures to battle the pandemic. One such reformation is in the education system, embracing innovative ways of learning and tackling with unforeseen challenges ever.

The students of JNEC were all prepared for the Spring Semester 2020 and with enthusiasm all reported in the college to undertake academic, cultural, sporting, and many other personal development activities organized by the college. It is in fact a moment for final year students to graduate with much of excitements and mementos of their stay at JNEC and final adieu. All of these invaluable moments have come to halt in the very beginning of the semester upon our country taking major decision to close educational institutions as an advance measures to handle the spread of COVID-19. In a quick moment, all students had to leave for their homes hardly realizing the huge impact on our educational journey and the process of teaching learning.

A week after the closure of college, students were informed on the pursuit of online classes. Most of us were taken by surprise and wondered how realistic will online classes be. Starting from March 27, 2020, online classes were scheduled and lecturers started the online sessions with online conference using Zoom and other online video tutorials. Lectures on other side took us through multiple techniques very new. Gradually, we students have adopted to this new course of learning and started attending the virtual classroom regularly.

We realized numerous challenges of staying home and attending the online classes. It was not easy to attend classes staying at home in a large family where guest keeps pouring in, cows moo, dogs keeps barking and family members and guest talk at the top of their voice without understanding the online sessions. It was not only irritating to the individual but disturbed the whole class. The network connection was so erratic for effective classes and cost for data packages were found too dear for many to afford. For those whose parents are working at the farm, it was very inconvenient for the students to stay at home and attend the classes while their aged parents are busy at fieldwork. Some students had to attend the classes while ploughing the fields and participating in farming. Much of students did realize the beauty of open learning environment and hard work shouldered by parents for our education and livelihood. It

was also a great time staying with parents and helping them at household chores. Over a time, we were accustomed to the use of online learning facilities and started to enjoy the classes.

For instance, Negotiation Skills as one of the module was rightly placed in this

# Study tips:

- I. Note taking-
- ✓ it helps student to be attentive and keep in track of ever sessions
- It helps to review and revise the points.
- ✓Write down the main ideas/points.
- Example; mind mapping method.

semester and the assignment and case study assigned were so appropriate that we were able to come in contact with many business people in the locality in the process of interviewing to fulfill the requirement of assigned work. It was great learning how to deal with people and how to manage a business. The lesson learned was "dealing with customers and negotiating a conflict" is not an easy task.

The feeling that "going to school is the best public policy tool available to raise skills and knowledge of students" started to get a question mark. With the experience of attending online classes, some students felt that learning should not be restricted within the classroom itself especially for university students. As a university student, one should know the external environment and should be able to manage the time effectively without having to be guided by the college administration. Overall students felt that they can do justice to the lesson that was scheduled for the semester and feel confident to apply the knowledge learned in their work life. The Pandemic also gave a great opportunity to explore new ways of learning through the use of technology.



"Our country is a special land blessed by Guru Rinpoche and Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, and further strengthened by the vision and hard work of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. Our country has faced and successfully overcome numerous hurdles in the past.

I am confident that, with the blessings of the Triple Gem, the protection of our Guardian Deities, Kurims conducted by His Holiness the Je Kenpo and the monastic community, and the unwavering bond of fidelity and unity among the King, country and people- we have the fearless courage to overcome all adversities. Let us rise to the occasion in the service of our nation."

His Majesty The King addressed the Nation through a televised speech on Bhutan Broadcasting Service Television on April 10. The translation of His Majesty's address was released by the Royal Office of Media (BBS, April 11, 2020).



A 'Mindfulness Walk' was initiated and organized by President of the College for volunteer staff and family members of JNEC on July 5, 2020. A total of 18 participants took part in the mindfulness walk from College campus towards north along the Primary National Highway and completed the walk at 'Migtangkhar', covering 21 km. The President, organizer of the event said that event was organized to promote mental and physical health adhering with new normal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) amidst COVID-19 Pandemic. It was aimed to bring together tranquility of one-self with the beauty of nature as a refreshing activity.

The conditions set forth for the walk were no: talk, phone, music, artificial food and drinks and maintain a minimum of one-meter gap between any two persons till the destination is reached. Walkers focused on positivity during the walk and share the experiences and feelings upon reaching the destination followed by sharing of scrumptious meal carried by each participant as pack lunch.

The event was widely appreciated and applauded, with promises to organize such events in future.

## **MEMBERS OF PUBLICATION UNIT**

Adviser:	Mr. Hemlal Bhattarai, Dean of Research & Industrial Linkages	
Coordinator:	Ms. Thinley Wangmo, Asst. Lecturer, DHM	
Editors :	Mr. Namgay Dorji, Lecturer, DHM	
	Ms. Srijana Gajmer, Associate Lecturer, DECE	
	Mr. Parashuram Sharma, Asst. Professor, DEE	Fax: 00
	Mr. Cheni Gambo, Asst. Professor, DME	
	Ms. Sonam Wangmo, Associate Lecturer, DIT	
	Mr. Sanjit Kumar Bhattarai, Associate Lecturer, DCES	
Designer:	Mr. Sonam Jamtsho, Sr. ICT Officer, ITSU	

#### Contact

thinleywangmo@jnec.edu.bt, thinleywangmo.jnec@rub.edu.bt; Fax: 00975-07-260289, (http://www.inec.edu.bt)