

Bi-annual Newsletter JNEC INSIGHTS Keeping you informed





Hon'ble Opposition Leader Dorji Wangdi Visits JNEC

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

i. International collaboration & capacity building through CEEECoM Project
iii. Reporting, assessing & auditing of B+NESD project
Page 3

i. Comprehensive reskilling programme
ii. Graphics design training for staff
iii. QGIS training for BNB engineers

Page 4

i. Th Annual Research meet
ii. Survey camp and modern mapping
iii. Crime and drugs prevention

Page 5

i. Python programming for community students
ii. Up-shift program empowering youth entrepreneurship

Page 6

i. Bridging theory with practice
ii. Research workshop for faculty & students
Page 7
i. Sustainable use of timber
ii. JNEC- Recipient of BTFEC project
iii. Hosting an academic tour

Strategic collaboration unveiled with Vajra Builders

two-day meeting between Vajra Builders Private Limited and Jigme Namgyel Engineering College (JNEC) was held at Vajra Construction Service Centre (VCSC), Ramtokto, Thimphu, from 20th to 21st November 2023, intended to strengthen the areas of collaboration outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in May 2023. The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Deputy CEO, board members of Vajra Builders, the Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages (DRIL), and faculty members of Civil Engineering & Surveying, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering, JNEC.

During this meeting, the partners engaged in brainstorming sessions, focusing on various ideas for collaboration, particularly in the realm of research and development. The meeting provided an overview of potential research areas for detailed discussion. It was decided to initiate collaborative efforts in two specific areas, with detailed information to be shared by a faculty representative from JNEC. All identified areas from this meeting will undergo further exploration and prioritisation based on their potential to meet the needs of partners and other beneficiaries.

Beyond research and development, the team from JNEC returned inspired by Vajra Builders' dedication to serving the country. The exceptional management of over 600 employees, with projects executed entirely by Bhutanese manpower, is truly impressive and distinguishes Vajra as possibly one of the construction companies in the country with such comprehensive approach. Vajra's commitment to employment generation, integrity, quality of work, and emphasis on human values over purely monetary considerations is highly commendable. Vajra's commitment to excellence and unwavering support for higher education institutions, particularly JNEC, exemplify the success of their collaboration. Furthermore, JNEC remains dedicated to seeking collaborations with other stakeholders, fostering a continued and expanding network of partnerships for mutual benefit.



Sustainability and Inclusivity in Engineering

s part of the Strengthening Capacity of Higher Engineering Education for Sustainable Buildings (HEESeB) project, three Training of Trainers (ToT) courses were organised from 30th September 2023 to 3rd October 2023. The event was facilitated by professors from the University of Innsbruck (UIBK), Austria, funded by the Austrian Partnership in Higher Education for Research and Development (APPEAR) project.

Gender-sensitive STEM Teaching: A Fourday training program focused on exploring Gender Equity and Diversity-Sensitive STEM teaching for teachers from 12 high schools and college faculty. The event was facilitated by Prof. Suzanne Kalepari of UIBK, Mr. Sangay Chedup, and Mr. Deo Raj Biswa. A total of 39 STEM teachers attended the training of which 17 were female.

Building Energy Efficiency: A two-day course on Building Energy Efficiency was facilitated by Prof. Wolfgang Streicher from UIBK, Austria. A total of 46 staff and students from BE in Mechanical and Power Engineering attended the course. Over the two days, interactive discussions revolved around building aspects for improving efficiency, basics to high-end building energy simulation, focusing mainly on Building Physics, HVAC and Simulation, passive design buildings for cost-effectiveness, and a sustainable future.

Timber Engineering: Prof. Anton Kraler of UBIK delivered a one-day guest lecture on timber engineering to final-year civil engineering students and staff focusing on building physics in construction, structural timber engineering, fire protection, sound insulation, thermal insulation, and moisture protection.



International Collaboration and Capacity Building through CEEECoM Project

n October 2023, two lecturers from the Department of Electrical Engineering, JNEC were engaged in a staff mobility initiative facilitated by Aalto University in Finland and Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia. This initiative was a crucial component of the Capacity Enhancement in Electrical Equipment Condition Monitoring and Fault Diagnostics (CEEECoM) project, supported by the European Union.

Taking place from October 10th to 24th, the two-week program immersed the academics in various activities, focusing on laboratory training, equipment identification for procurement, and the conceptualization of modules suitable for development at JNEC. These meticulously planned activities aimed to offer valuable insights and expertise in monitoring electrical equipment conditions and diagnosing faults, aligning with the overarching objective of enhancing proficiency within the CEEECoM project.

Participation in this initiative not only advanced the specific goals of the project but also contributed to the broader agenda of the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, dedicated to promoting international collaboration and enhancing educational capacity. The emphasis on practical aspects like laboratory training and module development ensures that the knowledge acquired by the academics can be effectively applied and shared within their department, benefiting both educators and students.

Looking ahead, three students from JNEC are scheduled to embark on a journey to

Aalto University and Tallinn University of Technology starting in December 2023. During their visit, the students will actively engage in collaborative project work, internships, and capacity-building activities.

Additionally, the project coordinator for the CEEECoM project at JNEC participated in a significant event in Kathmandu and Pokhara, Nepal, from 5th to 10th November 2023. These events encompassed workshops, meetings, and site visits, focusing on needs analysis, reporting of project deliverables, and understanding industrial site conditions in Nepal. Similar events are anticipated to take place in Bhutan toward the end of March 2024.



Reporting, Assessing and Auditing of B+NESDG Project

NEC organised a Reporting, Assessing and Auditing Workshop for the Bhutan + Nepal Higher Education for Accomplishing Sustainable Development Goals (B+NESDG) project 14th to 21st September 2023 in Thimphu. The eight-day workshop focussed on project activities carried out over a 3-year project duration by each partner Higher Education Institution of the project in which all the partners reported their project activities to the panel of consortium, for assessing and auditing.

The project was funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme and the consortium of the project comprised of Universidad Politecnica de Cartagena (Spain), Hellenic Open University (Greece), Kathmandu University (Nepal), Sagarmatha Engineering College (Nepal), Nepal Engineering College (Nepal), Far Western University (Nepal), Riga Technical University (Latvia), Pokhara University (Nepal) and Jigme Namgyel Engineering College, Royal University of Bhutan.

Nepal and European project partners expressed their desire to collaborate and work with JNEC on similar projects hereinafter. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (RUB) and President of JNEC graced the closing event.

Comprehensive Re-skilling Programme for Technicians

NEC organised two comprehensive training programmes aimed at enhancing the technical proficiencies of technicians. The first segment, spanning from 18th to 22nd November 2023, focused on plumbing, delving deep into plumbing principles and practices to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding. Following this, the second part of the program, held from 23rd to 27th, November 2023, centered on basic house wiring, offering essential insights into electrical systems.

A significant highlight of these training sessions was a field visit to Gyalsung Academy in Pemathang on 28th November 2023. This visit allowed participants to apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world settings, enhancing their practical skills. The hands-on experiences gained during this field visit played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application.

These initiatives underscore JNEC's steadfast dedication to cultivating practical expertise among its participants, ensuring they possess a strong foundation in theoretical concepts and are well-equipped to tackle challenges in their respective fields. By integrating hands-on experiences and field visits into the training programmes, JNEC actively contributes to the holistic development of its participants.

As a technical college, JNEC continues to play a vital role in advancing the overall skills development of its participants. The successful completion of these training programmes further cements JNEC's reputation as a premier institution committed to delivering quality education and preparing individuals for success in the ever-evolving technical landscape.



Graphics Design Training for Staff

NEC hosted an in-house Adobe Illustrator Training programme for 20 staff members from 19th to 21st January 2024. The comprehensive three-day workshop aimed at providing essential skills and knowledge in harnessing the capabilities of Adobe Illustrator, a potent vector graphics editor.

Mr. Sonam Jamtsho, Deputy ICT Officer of the college, played a pivotal role in resourcing and guiding participants through the intricacies of Adobe Illustrator's tools and functionalities. His expertise ensured that the training covered a wide spectrum of topics, including basic interface navigation, vector graphics creation, and advanced design techniques.

The intensive training was designed to enhance the proficiency of our staff in graphics design. Participants delved into the world of Adobe Illustrator, mastering the skills necessary to

QGIS Training for Bhutan National Bank Engineers

ngineers from the Bhutan National Bank Limited (BNBL) underwent a Quantum GIS (QGIS) training create visually appealing and professionalquality illustrations. The curriculum addressed key aspects, providing insights into the software's capabilities and enabling our staff to explore advanced design techniques.

The primary objective of this training was to empower the staff with the skills needed to



program conducted by the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, JNEC from 18th to 22nd September 2023.

Seven engineers from various branch offices of BNBL attended the training. Participants were



produce compelling and high-quality visual content for various educational materials and presentations. The acquired expertise is expected to contribute significantly to the overall visual communication and design capabilities of JNEC. By fostering a culture of creativity and design proficiency, we aim to elevate the standard of content creation across the college.

The skills acquired during this training programme are not just a professional enhancement; rather they represent an investment in the visual identity and communication prowess of JNEC. JNEC anticipates that the newfound abilities will empower staff to create engaging and impactful content in their respective roles, elevating the overall aesthetic and communicative standards of educational materials and presentations.

introduced to the diverse applications of QGIS, including its capabilities in handling vector and raster data formats, managing non-spatial attribute data, and integrating web mapping solutions with open-source GIS packages. The course emphasised the use of GIS-based tools for analyzing land-use patterns, conducting proximity analysis, and utilising web GIS for customer analysis and property management, particularly in property valuation processes.

In addition to the training sessions, discussions were held on potential collaborative projects between BNBL and JNEC for mutual benefit, highlighting the shared commitment to leveraging GIS technology for enhanced banking services and infrastructure development.



7th Annual Joint Faculty Research Meet

NEC hosted the 7th Annual Joint Faculty Research Meet (AJFRM) from 24th -25th January 2024. This is an annual joint event of the College of Science and Technology (CST), College of Natural Resources (CNR), Sherubtse College, and JNEC.

The Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages, Research Officers, Researchers, Academics, as well as participants from Administration, Finance, Student Services, and Library, JNEC attended the meet.

JNEC's Endeavours in Survey Camp & Modern Mapping

month-long survey camp at Jomotsangkha-Throm, comprising 25 students from the BE3SG and D2S, commenced on 5th November 2023 and was completed on 2nd January 2024. This event marks a historic recurrence of the first-ever similar camp by the second batch surveying



The first day featured presentations by six researchers from CST, CNR, and Sherubtse College. Unlike other research forums, this annual gathering serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences, enriching participants with diverse insights and methodologies.

The following day, Dr. Om Katel, CNR led a session on Grant Proposal Writing, imparting essential skills and strategies for securing research grants, supplemented by personal experiences followed by Dr. Sonam Tashi, CNR conducted a session on the Conventions

students in 1976 - 1977, coincidentally at the same location.

While technology has advanced significantly since then, with topographic map-making now facilitated by RTK GNSS Receivers, Total Stations, and digital levels, it's noteworthy that the surveying instrument used during the initial camp was the Ghat Tracer, a conventional tool for setting out grade contours. A preliminary survey involving ghat tracing was conducted to establish a mule track from Daifam to Lauri village for transportation purposes, surpassing the functionality of present-day farm roads.

Using state-of-the-art surveying equipment, JNEC students are now engaged in mapping Jomotshangkha-Throm, covering an area of 167.798 acres, in collaboration with local authorities. The primary objective of this survey camp was to equip students with the requisite skills for accurate and efficient data collection, spatial analysis, mapping, and of Scientific Paper Writing. The 8th AJFRM is scheduled to be hosted at CST in February 2025.





map interpretation, and ultimately, to prepare them for a career as surveyors. This handson experience serves to reinforce theoretical knowledge, with the resulting topographic map serving as a valuable resource for future planning and decision-making processes.

The final year students of 2021 cohort also completed the topographic survey of Pemathang-Gewog, Samdrup Choling in January 2022.

Crime and Drug Prevention, Legal Awareness, and Disaster Preparedness

he information session on crime and drug prevention, legal awareness, and disaster preparedness was conducted by JNEC in collaboration with the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP), Samdrup Jongkhar.

Crime and Drug Prevention: The Deputy Chief of Royal Bhutan Police and their team visited JNEC on 7th November 2023 to create awareness and instil a sense of responsibility and vigilance within the college community. The information session covered various aspects of crime prevention, including theft,





cybercrime, and drug-related offences. The team also discussed the detrimental effects of drug abuse and the significance of early intervention. The importance of staying informed and proactive was also emphasised.

Legal Awareness: Lt. Colonel Chogyal Drukpa, the Superintendent of Police (SP) visited JNEC on 12th August 2023 and provided a session highlighting various aspects of the law and its implications, fundamental rights entitled to every citizen, prevailing crime rates, and categories of offences observed within Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag. He emphasised the importance of compliance with the law and the serious consequences associated with criminal actions.

Disaster Preparedness: In commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), RBP from Samdrup Jongkhar organised a fire safety awareness session on 13th October 2023. Through the live demonstrations, participants learned fire safety protocols, equipped with essential knowledge and skills to prevent and mitigate fire hazards.



Python Programming for Community Students

NEC hosted a dynamic five-day Python programming training for students in classes IX to XII, held from 7th to 11th July 2023. The event attracted 15 eager participants from various schools in the region. The main goal of this initiative was to spark and nurture an interest in programming and software development among the students, making the most of their summer break by equipping them with valuable skills through engaging activities.

During the training, students were immersed in the basics of Python programming, covering key concepts like variables, data types, loops, and conditional statements. The curriculum also provided practical exposure to game and software development using Python, allowing participants to apply their learning in a hands-on manner.

The successful outcomes of the program have encouraged JNEC to consider expanding similar Python programming sessions in the future. The college recognises the significance of Python proficiency for students, preparing them effectively for careers in computer science and other diverse fields. By offering these training opportunities, JNEC aims to foster a skilled and empowered generation capable of meeting the challenges of the rapidly evolving technological landscape.



Up-shift Programme Empowering Youth Entrepreneurship

NEC successfully conducted a week-long Upshift Programme from 25th August to 1st September 2023, dedicated to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship among college youth at JNEC. The primary goal was to equip aspiring minds with the necessary skills and knowledge to create innovative solutions for local challenges. A total of 53 participants, comprising 20 females and 33 males, from diverse engineering backgrounds and fields participated in the programme. To facilitate effective training sessions, participants were organised into 13 groups, each assigned the task of developing a unique innovative solution. Every group was encouraged to collaborate and brainstorm effectively to address specific local challenges, resulting in the generation of 13 distinct innovative ideas. The programme was organised by Jigme Namgyel Engineering College (JNEC) in collaboration with the Loden Foundation and UNICEF. The Upshift Programme comprised two main phases: training and prototype development.

Training Phase (25th-26th August)

The programme commenced with two days of intensive training sessions led by seven resource persons. These experts provided valuable insights into entrepreneurship, innovation, and problem-solving. The training covered various topics such as social innovation, idea generation, creative thinking, design thinking, team building, community mapping, market research, and mock pitching skills.

Prototype Development and Market Validation (27th August - 1st September)

Following the initial training, participants had a week to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills. They worked on their ideas, developed prototypes, and validated their concepts in the market. This hands-on experience allowed them to apply the concepts learned during the training phase to real-world scenarios.

During the prototype development and market validation phase, the 13 groups worked diligently to transform their ideas into practical solutions. They conducted market research, gathered feedback from potential users, and refined their prototypes. Ultimately, each group produced a creative and innovative solution to a local problem.

At the end of the week-long phase, a final pitching competition on 1st September 2023, showcased the participants' innovative solutions. The following are the top three ideas that were selected.

JNEC Vehicle App: An app designed to enhance transportation services for the JNEC community by providing real-time information on vehicle availability, routes, and scheduling. The team was awarded a certificate and a cash prize of Nu.5000/-.

Automated Clothesline System: Addressing the challenge of drying clothes during varying weather conditions in Dewathang, this automated system offers a convenient and efficient way to dry clothes. The team received a certificate and a cash prize of Nu.3000/-. **Smart Fence:** A security solution utilising advanced technology to provide real-time alerts and monitoring of wild animals in fields, helping farmers protect their crops. The team received a cash prize of Nu.2000/- and a certificate.

The Upshift Programme conducted by JNEC, with support from the Loden Foundation and UNICEF, was a resounding success. It empowered 53 young participants to become innovative problem solvers and entrepreneurs. The top three ideas selected through the final pitching competition demonstrate the potential for impactful solutions to local challenges. One of the chosen ideas will be incubated in the JNEC Incubation Centre to materialise and implement it to address the issue in the community.

This programme exemplifies the importance of investing in youth, fostering innovation, and nurturing entrepreneurship to drive positive change in Bhutan. The skills and ideas developed during the Upshift Programme have the potential to make a meaningful difference in local communities and contribute to the country's development.



Bridging Theory with Practice: On-The-Job Training and Specialized Training in Heavy Earth Moving Equipment

n-The-Job-Training (OJT) programme at JNEC presented a valuable opportunity for 93 students pursuing Diploma in Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering from 5th December 2023 to15th January 2024. Over 42 days, these students were immersed in the practical application of their classroom learning. This hands-on experience reinforced their theoretical knowledge and equipped them with essential competencies and skills crucial for their future career.

During this period, students engaged in a myriad of activities aimed at enhancing their practical understanding. They had the chance to implement studied concepts, explore new methodologies, and familiarise themselves with the tools and equipment commonly used in their respective fields. This immersive learning environment bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, preparing students effectively for the demands of their future professions.

Furthermore, a group of 45 students pursuing Diplomas in Construction Supervision at JNEC had undergone a specialised 14 days course from 1st to 18th December 2023 on Heavy Earth

Workshop on Satellite and Ground Station Applications

o bring the marvels of satellite technology and ground station applications to the forefront, the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (DECE), JNEC, organised a one-day hands-on workshop for 9th and 11th grade students in the locality of Samdrup Jongkhar and first-year students of DECE on 14th October 2023.

The workshop was hosted by Ms. Srijana Gajmer, Associate Lecturer (DECE) and facilitated by

Research Workshops for Faculty and students

Research workshops on various topics were conducted by professors of universities from Poland and Japan in July and September 2023 respectively.

Introduction to Research Methodologies (18th to 19th September 2023):



Moving Equipment at TTI (Technical Training Institute), Samthang, situated approximately 650 kilometers away from the JNEC campus. This unique opportunity provided these students with focused training in a specific area relevant to their field. The collaboration between JNEC and TTI, Samthang is commendable, and special gratitude is extended to the Principal and staff of TTI for facilitating this essential training program.

Through these initiatives, JNEC demonstrates

its commitment to providing holistic education that not only encompasses theoretical knowledge but also emphasises practical experience and industry-relevant skills. By investing in such comprehensive training programmes, JNEC equips its students with the tools and expertise necessary to excel in their chosen careers and contribute meaningfully to the field of engineering and construction supervision.



final ECE students. The workshop covered diverse topics such as modern communication networks, PCB design and production, IoT fundamentals, home automation, satellite operations, and their significance in facilitating global connectivity. Live demonstrations also provided practical understanding of satellite technology and ground station operations. Student-led projects like CanSat and EduSat were also showcased during the workshop.



Dr. Hiroshi Fujiwara, Professor at SHOWA Women's University in Japan, introduced qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to third-year students from Power Engineering, Mechanical, Surveying, and Geoinformatics.

He shared his research experiences on Game Studies, captivating the students' interests and broadening their horizons in this burgeoning field. He has also played a pivotal role in orchestrating the Sakura Science Exchange Program, supported by the Japanese government, for six consecutive years. This initiative has provided invaluable opportunities for students from JNEC and Sherubtse College, enriching their academic journeys through cultural immersion and knowledge exchange.

Research Horizon and Identification of Research Gap(24th to 26th July 2023): Assistant Professor Yash Chawla of Wroclaw University of Science & Technology (WUST), Poland conducted a workshop for JNEC's staff on research horizon mapping, identifying research gaps, and effective publication strategies integrating the design thinking methodologies. Professor Chawla also introduced students to creative thinking techniques for problemsolving and exploration.

The collaboration between WUST and JNEC is poised to elevate academic standards, nurturing creativity, and critical thinking among faculty and students. This partnership signifies a mutual commitment to advancing educational methodologies and enhancing the overall academic experience, facilitated through the Erasmus+ Mobility Programme, this partnership aims to enrich academic practices and foster innovation in teaching and learning.

Sustainable Use of Timber in Construction

n an effort to advance the adoption of sustainable and resilient timber structures within Bhutan, JNEC organised a one-day consultative meeting in Thimphu on 3rd July 2023. This collaborative initiative supported by the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR), stands as a testament to the ongoing academic synergy between JNEC and Universität Innsbruck, Austria.

The partnership aims to introduce a pioneering certificate programme in Timber Engineering for Energy Efficient Buildings (TEEEB), tailored to the specific needs of Bhutan. The semesterlong certificate programme is scheduled to be launched in July 2024, designed for civil engineers and design professionals, equipping them with the requisite skills to spearhead

JNEC- one of the Recipients of BTFEC project

he Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTFEC) has played a crucial role in advancing environmental preservation and sustainability efforts in Bhutan since its inception. With a core mission to cultivate a shared commitment among citizens towards conserving biological diversity, adapting to climate change, fostering humanwildlife coexistence, and mitigating the negative environmental impacts of development through continuous financial support, BTFEC has significantly progressed in achieving these aims.

A fundamental strategy employed by BTFEC to fulfill its mission is the provision of grants to bolster a variety of environmental conservation projects. These grants, amounting to over USD 32 million since the fund's establishment, have been pivotal in financing a diverse range of initiatives aimed at safeguarding Bhutan's abundant natural heritage and promoting sustainable development practices.

The recent beneficiaries of BTFEC's Small Grants program exemplify the broad spectrum of projects supported by the fund, each contributing uniquely to the overarching goals of environmental conservation and sustainable development in Bhutan.

A proposal from JNEC focusing on the

Hosting Academic Tour

n 10th November 2023, JNEC welcomed academic toppers of Minjiwoong Central School on an academic tour. During their visit, Mr. Deo Raj Biswa, Associate Lecturer in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, took the visiting students through the realm of STEM (Science,



sustainable construction practices.

The meeting was attended by stakeholders, including the College of Science and Technology (CST), Gyalsung Infra, De-Suung Skilling Programme, National Housing Development Corporation Limited (NHDCL), Chagri

"Environmental Impacts of Organic Waste and its Stabilization using In-Vessel Composter (IVC) for Rural Communities of Samdrup Jongkhar" secured a small grant of Ngultrum Five hundred thousands. This project underscores the importance of innovative solutions for managing organic waste while addressing the specific needs of rural communities. The proposal was submitted by Mr. Phurba Tamang, Associate Lecturer from the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying as Principal Investigator, Mr. Ngawang Chojey (Assistant Research Officer), Mr. Vasker Sharma (Lecturer), and Mr. Deo Raj Biswa (Associate Lecturer) as Co-Investigators.

A proposal submitted by JNEC focusing on the "Environmental Impacts of Organic Waste and its Stabilization using In-Vessel Composter (IVC) for Rural Communities of Samdrup Jongkhar" successfully secured a small grant of Ngultrum Five hundred thousands. This project highlights the significance of innovative



Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). He shared the importance of STEM disciplines and delved into innovative methodologies for STEM learning, highlighting the transformative power of STEM education in shaping the future and addressing contemporary challenges. This initiative underscores JNEC's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and community empowerment. Restoration Project, TNK Construction, Design Space, Highland Wood, Staples & Jattu Wood Industry, Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSWSL), and the Bank of Bhutan Limited (BoBL).

solutions in managing organic waste while catering to the specific requirements of rural communities. The proposal was put forward by Mr. Phurba Tamang, Associate Lecturer from the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, serving as the Principal Investigator, with Mr. Ngawang Chojey (Assistant Research Officer), Mr. Vasker Sharma (Lecturer), and Mr. Deo Raj Biswa (Associate Lecturer) as Co-Investigators.

In addition to JNEC, the Dagana Dzongkhag Administration also received a grant for their proposal on "Installation of Regular Drinking Water Stations," emphasizing the critical need to ensure access to clean and safe drinking water, essential for both human wellbeing and ecosystem health. Green Bhutan Corporation Limited presented a proposal on "Conservation and Extension of Rhodo Garden at Lampelri Park," with a focus on preserving Bhutan's unique flora and promoting ecotourism, aligning with Bhutan's dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainable tourism. Furthermore, Songyala, an over-the-top platform (OTT), proposed a documentary film titled "Balancing Acts: Nurturing Coexistence in Bhutan's Heartlands" to raise awareness about the intricate relationship between communities and their natural environment, stressing the importance of fostering harmonious coexistence for sustainable development.



Celebrating Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit: RUB-BIC 2023

n a vibrant showcase of entrepreneurial zeal and groundbreaking innovation, the Royal University of Bhutan's Business Idea Competition (RUB-BIC) 2023 unfolded over three days, from the 19th to the 21st October 2023. Hosted at the Startup Center in Thimphu, this event brought together students from colleges and universities nationwide, each eager to present their unique business ideas and vie for prestigious awards.

The Journey Unfolds and JNEC's Triumph

Day 1 (19th October 2023): The competition kicked off with participants from nine colleges, including two private institutions. Organised by the Gedu College of Business Studies, the day was dedicated to briefings, mentorship sessions, and pitch clinics. Each college team was assigned a mentor to fine-tune their business ideas.

Day 2 (20th October 2023): The pivotal day saw the final round of business idea pitching at the Startup Center. The nine competing teams, representing various colleges, presented their ideas to a panel of judges and a live audience. The day was marked by fierce competition, with each team showcasing remarkable entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking. Day 3 (21st October 2023): The event concluded with an awarding ceremony and closing remarks by H.E Lyonpo Ugyen Dorji, Ministry of Home Affairs. His excellency emphasised the significance of such programmes in promoting and encouraging entrepreneurial ventures. The top three teams received cash prizes of Nu.50,000/-, Nu.30,000/- and Nu.20,000/-, respectively, and also secured seed funds.

In this event, a team from JNEC with the business idea on Yoenten.bt, secured 2nd position and this success underscored the dedication, hard work, and innovative thinking of students, showcasing not only their excellence in the competition but also the potential of their business ideas.

The team received a cash prize of Nu.30,000/and a substantial seed investment of Nu.500,000/- to kickstart their venture. Furthermore, they will be provided with incubation space and guidance for 6 months at Impact Hub (iHub), Thimphu, marking the beginning of their entrepreneurial journey.

About Yoenten.bt

Yoenten.bt is a Learning Management System tailored for Bhutanese students, offering flexibility in learning anytime, anywhere. This digital platform facilitates the management and tracking of learning progress, providing interactive educational content, online assessments, real-time feedback, and progress reviews.

Yoenten.bt aims to deliver a comprehensive learning experience, featuring online courses from top Bhutanese educators, past paper quizzes, affordable high-quality content, performance tracking, live doubt-clearing sessions, continuous assessment, personalised learning paths, community interaction, multilingual support, and career guidance.

Incubated since July 2023 at the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre (EIC) at JNEC, the team, led by Mr. Rohit Rai and Mr. Abhishek Pokhrel has been continuously guided and mentored by Mr. Shankar, the EIC Manager JNEC, on various aspects of business pitching and plan development.

The team's passion, innovation, and dedication have not only earned them accolades in the RUB-BIC 2023 but also positioned Yoenten.bt as a promising initiative in the field of digital education in Bhutan.



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