



Drukyul Ngytshuel

Issue #16, September 2019



In This Issue:

1. The next five years
2. From the field
3. Upcoming events
4. Introducing the Resource Hub
5. In the news
6. Think piece series
7. From the BCF blog
8. GNH Corner
9. Recommended viewing

1. The next five years

The Bhutan Canada Foundation is excited to have recently completed a new strategic plan for 2019-2024. The strategic planning process was carried out in response to the changing needs of the Ministry of Education and our other partners in Bhutan. Four strategic goals provide the framework for the plan:

1. Strengthened capacity within Bhutan's education sector to provide opportunities for diverse sets of learners.
2. Enhanced partnerships and cooperation between Canada and Bhutan, its government and institutions.
3. Increased understanding within Canada of the challenges faced by the people of the Himalayas and opportunities for learning from Bhutan.
4. Improved sustainability of BCF through a sustained revenue model, excellent governance and a strong team.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the strategic planning process a success!

2. From the field

Online learning platform: bringing ICT to classrooms

Supporting the vision for an ICT-enabled and knowledge-based society, we are working with the Ministry of Education and Royal Education Council to aid in the development of an online learning platform. This summer a Canadian ICT consultant met with our partners to share best practices and increase capacity to identify which platform to move forward with. Launching in December 2020, this initiative is the first of its kind in Bhutan at the national level. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners on this innovative initiative.



2. From the field

Gender responsive education for new civil servants

We're excited to announce a new project where we will be partnering with the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) to increase the capacity of new civil servants to provide gender responsive public services. Funded by the Canadian High Commission in India through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, this project will address the challenges women face when accessing public services by developing relevant tertiary education curriculum that will increase the capacity of young Bhutanese entering the civil service. The project will include best practices research, a roundtable with Bhutanese civil servants and civil society organizations, and the design and revision of curriculum in select courses at RIM.

Reading Program sees volunteer teachers in Haa

The summer Reading Program saw 8 teachers placed in Haa, Wangdue Phodrang, Punakha, and Thimphu. This is the first time a BCF teacher has been placed at Katsho Lower Secondary in Haa and we are welcoming this opportunity to work with new schools to support access and quality in education. We're preparing for our next program session in October 2019, which will include the development of a new library in Tang Central School.

3. Upcoming events

Snowman Trek

We are thrilled to announce we will be running the Snowman trek, September 19 - October 20, 2020 in partnership with Canadian Himalayan Expeditions. The Snowman trek is known as the most difficult high altitude trek in the world, taking adventurous trekkers through the most remote valleys in Bhutan. Spanning 30 days total, this trip is a rewarding challenge that few people have experienced. [Learn more](#)

Reading Program - Volunteer in 2020

Are you considering teaching in Bhutan in 2020? Applications are now open for volunteer teachers to apply for the Reading Program in March, May, August, September, and October 2020. Read more about the experiences of past volunteer teachers [here](#) or complete the application today. [Apply now](#)



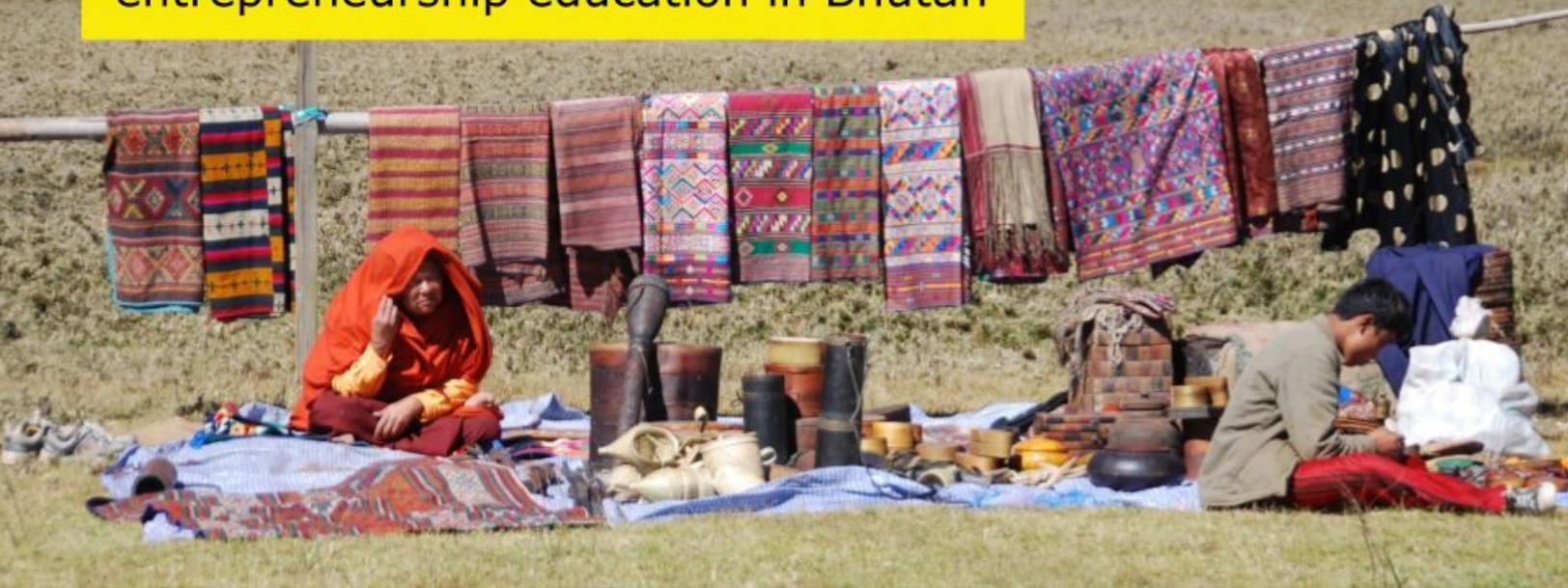
4. Introducing the Resource Hub

Interested in learning more about Bhutanese education or Gross National Happiness (GNH)? Browse our Resource Hub for a curated selection of articles, videos, strategies, policies and more! Or take a look at this month's **featured resource**, *Bhutan National Human Development Report: Ten Years of Democracy in Bhutan* (2019), by the Parliament of Bhutan and UNDP. **[Browse resource hub](#)**

5. In the news

1. [Teachers and doctors are now the highest paid civil servants in Bhutan.](#)
2. [Parliamentarians launch the Bhutan Women Parliamentary Caucus \(BWPC\).](#)
3. [New institution for nursing education opens in Bhutan.](#)
4. [Canada invests in Bhutanese projects.](#)
5. [Bhutan's Ministry of Education to create scholarships for Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\) for the first time.](#)

'Re-thinking entrepreneurship through the lens of culture: implications for sustainable entrepreneurship education in Bhutan'



6. Think Piece Series

Introducing BCF's new *Think Piece* series providing in-depth explorations of key issues related to development in Bhutan while generating thought and discussion. They will appear quarterly on the BCF website and be written by both Canadian and Bhutanese authors. Read the first think piece on 'Re-thinking entrepreneurship through the lens of culture: implications for sustainable entrepreneurship education in Bhutan'. **[Read think piece](#)**

Interested in responding to or expanding on a *Think Piece*? Please send your ideas to info@bhutancanada.org with the phrase 'Think Piece response' in the subject line. We'll put it through our review process and put it on our website if selected for publication

7. From the BCF Blog

Bhutan and New Zealand: Leading the way on wellbeing

New Zealand made international news recently with its plan to introduce a **“wellbeing budget.”** Based on the notion that people’s wellbeing rests on much more than just economic growth, New Zealand’s new budget will frame public spending around addressing mental health challenges, reducing child poverty and family violence, transitioning to a low-emissions economy, expanding the opportunities for indigenous peoples, and supporting a thriving nation in the digital age...For Bhutan watchers, it’s also rather familiar... **(continue reading)**



8. GNH corner

What can Canadian politicians learn about economic and environmental policy from Bhutan’s GNH framework? Please see BCF’s recent op-ed in the *Ottawa Citizen* [here](#).

9. Recommended viewing

Dr. Matthew Schuelka gives a talk on “Education in Bhutan: Culture, Schooling, and GNH” at Oxford, January 2019.

