



Drukyul Ngytshuel

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1. From the Field

Online learning platform: getting ready for launch

Our partners, the Bhutanese Ministry of Education and Royal Education Council, are in a critical stage in building the first national online learning platform in Bhutan. We are continuing to support this initiative where needed as they get ready to launch for December 2020. Building upon our work to support their selection of a platform, we will now be working to build capacity of education administrators and educators to design and write content for the online modules based on existing curriculum. A Canadian online education specialist will go to Bhutan in early 2020 to deliver workshops, share resources, and provide mentorship to Bhutanese stakeholders.

Trans Bhutan Trail

We will be working to support the reopening of the Trans Bhutan Trail, a traditional pedestrian highway spanning almost 400 km between Paro and Trashigang. This project will have a special focus on education with plans to incorporate this trail in classrooms through experiential education. Furthermore, this trail will support environmental conservation and awareness, current local employment and tourism opportunities, and help foster the development priorities of Gross National Happiness. To date, two staff have been hired for this initiative and are based in the Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB). Part of their initial work will include completing research to record oral histories and learn more about the communities who live along the trail.



Above: Honorable Minister for Education Jai Bir Rai and Chair for Bhutan Canada Foundation Sam Blyth.

1. From the Field

Gender responsive education for new civil servants

In October we co-facilitated a roundtable with the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) as part of a project to increase the capacity of new civil servants to provide gender responsive public services. Representatives from the National Commission for Women and Children, GNH Commission, and other women-focused organizations all helped to collaboratively assess international best practices research and contextualize it for Bhutan. The key gender issues, concepts and skills identified in this roundtable will be incorporated into RIM curriculum, which will include one new standalone introductory module on *Gender and Governance* and three existing courses. The project is funded by the Canadian High Commission in India through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

Reading Program successfully hosted 19 teacher placements in 2019

This year the Reading Program saw 19 teachers placed in Haa, Paro, Thimphu, Wangdue, and Tang. The schools we worked with shared how vital this program has been in supporting the capacity of teachers and providing professional development opportunities. Over the year, BCF teachers delivered workshops on phonetics, mentored teachers on creative teaching techniques, and some even donated a new library to their school! We're proud to work with such talented teachers who care deeply about education in Bhutan and look forward to building upon this program next year.

2. Upcoming Events

Snowman Trek

Registration for the Snowman Trek is open (September 19 – October 20, 2020)! Take a look on our website to see why this trek is known as one of the most beautiful and challenging treks in the Himalayas. [Learn more.](#)

Reading Program - Volunteer in 2020

Next year could be the year you teach in Bhutan. Applications for volunteer teachers are open for the March, May, August, September, and October 2020. Applicants must have an educational background in teaching as well as three years of classroom experience. [See more information.](#)

3. In the News

1. [Canadian government announces new scholarships for Bhutan](#)
2. [Canada and Bhutan hold first biennial consultations](#)
3. [Ministry of Education seeks to build 'Brand Bhutan Education'](#)
4. [Special needs education faces challenges in Bhutan](#)
5. [National Council reviewing Bhutan's education system](#)
6. [Education Flagship Programme to focus on IT literacy](#)

4. BCF Blog

BCF and RIM: Promoting a gender-responsive civil service

Bhutan has made notable strides in promoting an environment to improve gender equality. Yet significant gaps remain, particularly in women's experience with governance and policy. In response, the Bhutan Canada Foundation is working with the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) to promote gender equality in the delivery of public programs by Bhutan's civil service. RIM is the key Bhutanese education institution mandated to promote management knowledge and skills in the public sector. The joint BCF-RIM project, funded by the Canadian High Commission in Delhi through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, will focus on incorporating gender issues, concepts and skills into RIM curriculum that is delivered to new and existing civil servants...[\(continue reading\)](#)



5. GNH Corner

Gross National Happiness in Bhutan

Gross National Happiness, Bhutan's national development strategy, has until recently been applied primarily in the public sector. More recently, GNH is starting to be implemented in the private sector, including a [GNH assessment tool](#) that will assist businesses in their commitment to sustainability.

6. Recommended Viewing

Re-imagining Development for Happiness and Wellbeing: Panel Discussion on GNH and Bhutan.



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