



ROYAL THIMPHU COLLEGE

Inspiring Education in Bhutan

Reflection on the Year 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Welcome to RTC's Newsletter, Reflection on 2022!

This newsletter hopes to provide a window into the events of the year. 2022 has been a great year at RTC, making up for the uncertainties and disruptions we faced in the previous two years.

We began the year with the excitement of the finalisation and launch of the Bachelor of Sports and Health Sciences and the Royal Thimphu College Football Clubs for men and women players. We continue to have a great display of student works and projects, including photos, videos, and research presentations on campus. Students were engaged throughout the year in many exciting co-curricular activities, college plays, sports, music & dance, debates, and quiz competitions. The students also made time for blood drives and voluntary clean-ups in and around Thimphu. Our major national event was co-hosting the Conference on Higher Education Teaching-Learning In Bhutan in July. We also successfully hosted international events including the Vatavaran Film Festival (the biggest Environmental film festival in Asia) and the concluding international hybrid conference of the Erasmus+ FRIENDS project (furthering international relations capacities and intercultural engagement to nurture campus diversity and supporting internationalization at home). We were also inspired by the Distinguished Guest Lecture series, career and international business festivals and celebrations of International day, BLISS (Bhutan Lectures on Innovation, Science and Society), and Bhutan Dialogues sessions hosted at RTC.

We could resume our international student exchanges and mobilities with 65 staff/faculty outbound and 30 reciprocal mobilities between May to October 2022. After a gap of over a year, we picked up on our internationalization programme with 9 international students in the Spring and 16 in the Fall semester, and with 23 RTC students sent for exchange studies in institutes in Europe and the USA for an academic year. Purpose building for the freshmen, leadership orientations, counselling skills and SIY workshops for the student leaders, mock drills for earthquake preparedness, and safety training for fire hazards added to the depth of the care and nurturing of the RTC community. We had a grand graduation day celebration after a gap of two years. The 2022 BCSE (Bhutan Civil Service Examination) result declaration in December was the icing on the cake for a most successful year, as Sonam Tobgay and Karma Wangmo secured the top and the third positions, respectively in the general category. It was indeed a year of achievements for the RTC community.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tshewang Tandin'.

Tshewang Tandin
President
Royal Thimphu College

The Royal Thimphu College and Tago Institute of Advanced Vajrayana Studies signed an MoU on 29th March 2022. His Eminence Gyalse Trulku Jigme Tenzin Wangpo graced the signing ceremony. His Eminence Gyalsey Rinpoche as President of TIAVS and President of RTC signed the MoU in presence of all the officials from both Institutes. The main objective of the MoU is to enhance academic cooperation between the two institutes and further collaboration on spiritual, research, and capacity-building activities and projects. Marking the auspicious occasion, Royal Thimphu College was extremely blessed to receive a statue of Jampelyang from the Tago Institute as a token of remembrance of such an important event.



Collaborations

On 25th April, His Eminence Gyalsey Trulku, President of RTC, faculty, and staff from the two institutes graced the launching of English as Foreign Language classes at the Tago Institute for Advanced Vajrayana Studies. The EFL course is offered as part of the collaboration project between the two institutes and is expected to build competencies for English language in learners at Tago Institute through a formal EFL course.



RTC RECEIVES ROYAL SOELRA (GIFT)



The RTC community was extremely blessed to have received 3-D masks from His Majesty The King as the college resumed the academic year on April 5th, 2022. The Royal Soelra came as a blessing and a joy for the members of the RTC community and we pledged to further instill “Our Genkhu” (Our Responsibility) in fighting the pandemic. RTC is always indebted to His Majesty for leading the charge against this virus and showing us direction.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



Royal Thimphu College Student Leaders, including Student Government officials, Resident Assistants (RAs), and Club Coordinators underwent a two-day Leadership Workshop organized by the Student Services Department and facilitated by the President of RTC, Mr. Tshewang Tandin. The workshop is conducted every semester to help the student leaders develop their leadership and planning skills as they prepare their plan of student activities for the year ahead.

RTC Promotes Access to Inclusive Education

A key element of inclusive education is valuing diversity within the human community. As one of the Higher Education Institutions in Bhutan, Royal Thimphu College has been on a journey to provide and promote inclusive education since 2019 with the enrolment of the first visually impaired student on a full scholarship who successfully graduated in the summer of 2022. RTC welcomed two new students in 2022, Chimi Dema and Sapuna Subba to its newly launched Bachelor of Sports and Health Sciences programme. Chimi and Sapuna are paralympic athletes and have represented Bhutan in many international paralympic games. RTC in partnership with the Bhutan Olympic Committee (BOC) has supported them with full scholarships to pursue their degree studies.

Chimi started her journey as a shotput athlete at the Bhutan Paralympic Committee in 2018 and has since participated in many international paralympic games including the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games. Sapuna is a para-badminton athlete and has brought home two bronze medals from the Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG). *“We were very nervous when we first came to RTC and being surrounded by people we did not know was very overwhelming, but we were able to get along with our classmates and make friends within the first few days. Now we have our own group of friends that we hang out with”,* said Chimi and Sapuna.



Left: Chimi Dema, Right: Sapuna Subba

Chimi is currently serving as a part-time gym assistant on campus which gives her the opportunity to earn some monthly allowance from the college. She also helps students using the gym facilities to execute proper form and posture while working out. Sapuna has her badminton practice session every morning at the Multi-purpose Hall with other students. Chimi and Sapuna wish to work at the Bhutan Paralympic Committee after graduating from RTC. *“We want to give back to the organization that gave us endless opportunities. We want to advocate for people with disabilities and inspire them to come forward and achieve their dreams.”*

Inclusive Education goes beyond simply including people with disabilities on campus, we must have a campus-wide effort to build a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment that creates a sense of belonging and respect for diversity. Royal Thimphu College reiterates its commitment to building an inclusive culture on campus and promoting access to education for everyone.

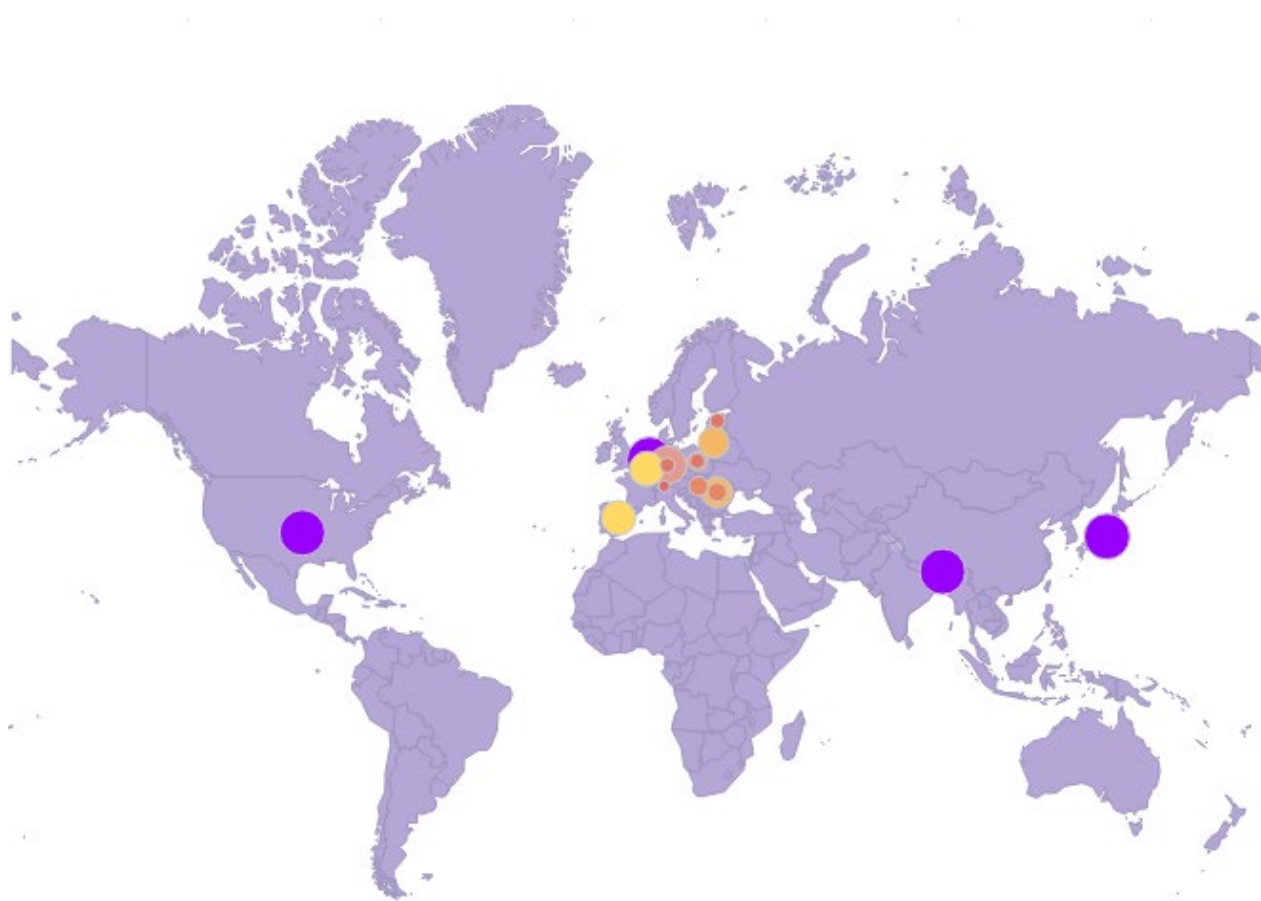
Youth Conclave: Advancing Youth SRHR 2022

The Mass Communication programme at Royal Thimphu College in collaboration with RENEW with support from IPPF, South Asia Region hosted an advocacy programme on 'Youth Conclave: Advancing Youth SRHR 2022' at the RTC Campus on 25th May 2022.

The Conclave brought together youths from various walks of life (RTC students, Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children & Youth, QUEER Voices of Bhutan, Pride Bhutan: "Celebrating Diversity", Druk-Puen Girls, DRUK Magpoens) to exchange ideas, share experiences, learn and engage together through innovative, existing and creative ways.



INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



In addition to the 23 RTC students studying on one-year academic exchanges to the USA and Europe, Royal Thimphu College was able to send more than 65 teaching and nonteaching staff on short-term outbound mobilities to 13 universities in Europe this Summer. The Erasmus+ programme for higher education funded by the European Union supports teaching and administrative staff to take part in professional development activities every year. The programme allows staff to teach and train abroad, creating an international learning experience for all involved.

The Erasmus+ mobility partnerships and capacity-building projects were initiated in 2017 and involve the exchanges of staff and students between partner universities and long-term project works. The recent mobilities were enriching and fulfilling experiences for all the participants allowing them to explore, engage and learn. It also served as an opportunity for RTC and the host institutions to discuss and plan future collaborative programmes to explore areas for joint academic projects. The mobilities not only contributed to the professional development of the participants but also contributed to the growth of their intercultural competencies. We look forward to future collaborations between the institutions.

Since 2010, RTC has sent over 270 Bhutanese students abroad for short-term and long-term exchanges including cultural and academic mobilities. RTC has also received over 300 international faculty and students for inbound exchanges so far with more already planned for the upcoming year.

ROYAL THIMPHU COLLEGE FOOTBALL CLUB (RTC FC)



Royal Thimphu College Football Club (RTC FC) officially registered as a football club in early 2022. RTC FC conducted the opening ceremony of the Home and Away Kit graced by His Eminence Khenpo on June 2, 2022. The ceremony was conducted to mark the opening of the club's jersey in the presence of the college President and Registrar.



RTC FC won the BOB Premier League Qualifier 2022 and secured their place in the 2022 Bhutan Premier League (BPL), the highest professional league in the country among the leading 10 clubs.

RTC FC MEN'S TEAM



RTC FC WOMEN'S TEAM



CLASS OF 2022!



Royal Thimphu College celebrated graduation after a two-year hiatus on 30th June 2022!
A total of 377 students graduated in 2022 including RTC's first cohort of BSc Nursing and Midwifery students.

International Students



Royal Thimphu College welcomed 9 new international students in the spring semester and 16 new international students in the fall semester of 2022. We were happy to host semester study-abroad students from our partners - Wheaton College Massachusetts, API Study Abroad - Academic Programs International (API), and Centre College in the USA. We also extended a warm welcome to several new independent semester study-abroad students and 2 new full-degree international students from Germany, Netherlands, USA, and India. The College believes that a multicultural environment contributes to the breadth of opportunities for all students, and is a substantial benefit for everyone in terms of cross-cultural learning.

RTC COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO GROW

RTC welcomed 556 new students to its nine different programmes including one Continuing Education evening programme, out of which 85 students joined the College on various scholarship schemes offered by RTC and its partner agencies.

Scholarships	Slots	Scholarship Type
RTC Academic Scholarship	12	2 full scholarships, 4 full tuition waivers and 6 partial scholarships
RTC President's Scholarship	1	Full scholarship
RTC President's Scholarship	1	Tuition fee waived off
RTC-BOC (Bhutan Olympic Committee) Sports Scholarship	7	Full scholarship jointly supported by RTC and BOC
RTC Sports Scholarship	8	Full scholarship
RTC-YDF (Youth Development Fund) Need-based Scholarship	2	Full scholarship jointly supported by RTC and YDF
DAHE (Department of Adult and Higher Education) Scholarship	27	Full scholarship sponsored by RGoB
Office of the Gyalpoi Zimpoen	2	Full scholarship
WWF (World Wildlife Fund) Train Legacy Scholarship	2	Full scholarship
WWF Train Legacy Scholarship	2	Full tuition support
RTC-Loden Scholarship (Nursing)	3	Full scholarship jointly supported by RTC and Loden Foundation
RTC-Loden Scholarship (General)	1	Full scholarship jointly supported by RTC and Loden Foundation
BFF (Bhutan Football Federation) Scholarship	6	Full scholarship by BFF
RTC-BFF Scholarship	3	Full scholarship jointly supported by RTC and BFF
Himalayan Higher Education Fund Scholarship (HHEFS)	4	Full scholarship by HHEF
Gyalyum Charitable Trust Scholarship	4	Full scholarship
Total	85	

RTC launched a 4-year programme in Sports and Health Sciences in affiliation with the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB). Implemented in the academic year 2022, this is the country's first undergraduate degree programme with a specialization in sports. The programme not only aims to improve the health and physical well-being of the learners, but also aspires to enhance the role that sports can play in boosting social cohesion, for their educational value, and for economic reasons.

From the academic year 2022 onwards, the BA in Development Economics and BA in English Studies at RTC have been updated to 4-year degree programmes to keep up with global trends. Similarly, BA in Mass Communication and BA in Anthropology will be updated to 4-year degree programmes from 2023 onwards.

RTC CELEBRATES ENERGY WEEK



To mark Energy Week from 23rd to 27th May 2022, the Department of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs (DRE) conducted an advocacy campaign for the development of renewable energy in Bhutan engaging students from BSc in Environmental Management in a quiz competition.

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN STEM



Ms. Yeshey Choden, Deputy Executive Engineer/Space Engineer from the Department of Information Technology and Telecom spoke to the students about her journey to becoming a space engineer and the importance of STEM Education in Bhutan. Yeshey is one of Bhutan's first Satellite Engineers.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION



Royal Thimphu College, Paro College of Education and Samtse College of Education co-hosted a National Conference on Higher Education Teaching-Learning in Bhutan in partnership with the Department of Adult and Higher Education from 4th-5th July 2022. The National Conference primarily focused on providing a platform to share innovations, adaptations, and challenges in higher education in recent years; and create space for academics to engage in creative thinking on teaching and learning in higher education. Experts and educators around the country joined the two-day conference to discuss ways forward for the adoption of innovative and adaptive practices.

Faculty Spotlight

RTC Associate Professor and Programme Leader of Political Science and Sociology, Dr. Jelle J.P. Wouters is the author and editor of 9 books. These include Vernacular Politics in Northeast India (Oxford University Press), Nagapolis: A Community Portrait (Barkweaver Press), Subaltern Studies 2.0: Being Against the Capitalocene (Chicago University Press/Prickly Paradigm Press, co-authored with Milinda Banerjee), and The Routledge's Handbook of Highland Asia (edited with Michael Heneise), and The Routledge's Companion to Northeast India (edited with Tanka B. Subba). Over the years, he also published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He has been a monthly columnist for the Statesman and a regular contributor to other newspapers, magazines, and online outlets.

Dr. Jelle studied anthropology in Amsterdam, Oxford, and Shillong and taught at Sikkim Central University, India, and Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Germany before joining Royal Thimphu College in 2015. He currently serves as the chair of the Himalayan Centre for Environmental Humanities (HCEH), which was established at Royal Thimphu College in 2021 to promote humanist and more-than-human understandings of ecology and climate, and to engage in, variously, bridge-building, line-drawing, dot-connecting, and co-creating between climate science, other sciences, humanities, policy-makers, and the public. The HCEH is also primarily engaged in capacity-building in the Environmental Humanities among faculty, staff, and students through reading labs, workshops, and various projects.

In 2021, the HCEH hosted an international seminar, conducted online, titled: 'Storying Climes of the Himalaya, Andes, and Arctic' which brought together scholars from places across the globe. This conference is culminating in a book titled: Storying Multipolar Climes of the Himalaya, Andes, and Arctic: Anthropocenic Climate and Shapeshifting Watery Lifeworlds (edited by Dr. Jelle and Dan Smyer Yü, Routledge 2023). Currently, the HCEH is engaged in two main research projects, Multispecies Himalayan Climes, funded by the Centre's main institutional partner: ICIMOD-HUC, and More-Than-Human Conversations in Bhutan. Both these projects involve a range of RTC faculty, staff, and students.





Royal Thimphu College hosted the “FRIENDS Career Fair” on 19th October 2022. The career fair served as a great opportunity for our students and alumni to speak one-on-one with potential employers, connect with universities for post-graduate studies and learn networking skills all in the same place. A total of 22 local organizations set up their stalls during the fair. Additionally, there were virtual sessions on opportunities for post-graduate studies in Germany through DAAD Scholarship and Upskilling with Data Literacy and Data Analytics through CADs.



Royal Thimphu College, in collaboration with Erasmus+ funded project Encore EU, inaugurated its Entrepreneurship Knowledge Centre (EKC) on 19th October 2022. EKC is an incubation centre to foster Innovative Entrepreneurship Practices in Education and Research. The centre has been equipped with IT facilities and will collaborate with stakeholders like Loden Foundation and FabLab Bhutan to promote innovation in the field of entrepreneurship. ENCORE is a three-year Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project co-financed by the European Commission.



RTC FESTA!

Royal Thimphu College celebrated International Day and Business Festival on 19th October 2022.

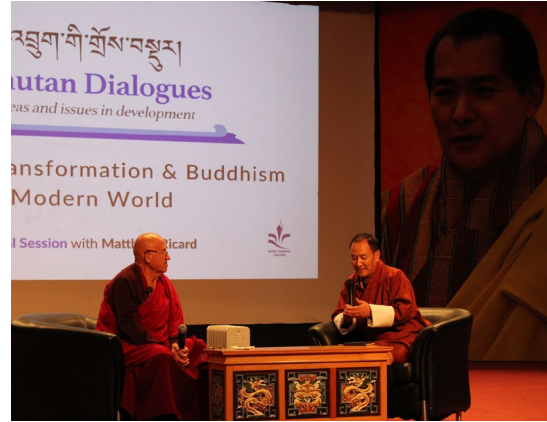


The International Day included a variety of food and game/entertainment stalls along with various Information Booths on the ongoing Erasmus+ projects, study abroad programs, and cultural booths on Bhutan's Regional Diversity. The Business festival hosted a series of fun and competitive activities throughout the day, celebrating and encouraging young creative minds to engage, learn, nurture and experience the art of business. The festival included an extempore speech, video-making competition, quiz competition, live music, food, and game stalls.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES



Royal Thimphu College was honored to have His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, Lyonpo Dr. Tandin Dorji for this week's Distinguished Guest Lecture Series. His Excellency spoke to the final-year students about the recent reforms and transformations in foreign policies and reminded us of personal accountability as key to achieving national goals as addressed by His Majesty The King during the 114th National Day. His Excellency also toured the campus and had a short interaction with the executive members and programme leaders of RTC.



The 53rd Bhutan Dialogues was held at the Royal Thimphu College, a special session on **Science, Inner Transformation, and Buddhism in the Modern World** by Matthieu Ricard on 10th November 2022. Matthieu Ricard brings together ancient wisdom and scientific insights to put forth a truly compelling global vision for the 21st century, and his voice, his message and his wisdom are greatly needed.



Officials representing various sectors working towards harnessing and providing clean energy in Bhutan spoke to the final year and Environmental Management students of RTC. The three guest speakers Mr. Ugyen Norbu (Chief Program Officer, RSTA), Mr. Galey Wangchuk (CEO, Suntch Bhutan), and Ms. Dechen Dema (Executive Engineer, Department of Renewable Energy, MoEA) spoke on the topics of electrifying the transportation sector, energy saving through advanced technologies, and alternative renewable energy sources in Bhutan. The guest lectures were part of Bhutan Lectures on Innovation, Science and Society (BLISS), a public benefit event that aims to bring forward transformative ideas by Bhutanese to a wider audience in order to inform, educate, empower and inspire people.



Royal Thimphu College was honored to have His Excellency Lyonpo Sonam Tobgay, former chief justice of Bhutan as a guest speaker on 25th August 2022. His Excellency spoke about Bhutan's Transition to Democracy. The talk was attended by the College President, international students from Wheaton College, and students from the Political Science and Sociology programme.



Dr. Phub Tshering (Onco Surgeon, JDWNRH) and Ms. Anu Rai from Bhutan Cancer Society ran an advocacy programme on Cancer Awareness. Dr. Phub and Ms. Anu introduced Bhutan Cancer Society and spoke about the ill effects of tobacco to first-year students. Bhutan Cancer Society intends to scale up this initiative and reach out to more schools and students to share the adverse effects of tobacco use.

The Anthropology programme issued the 2nd volume of their student journal, *Jottings of the field* on 17th November 2022.

Jottings from the Field



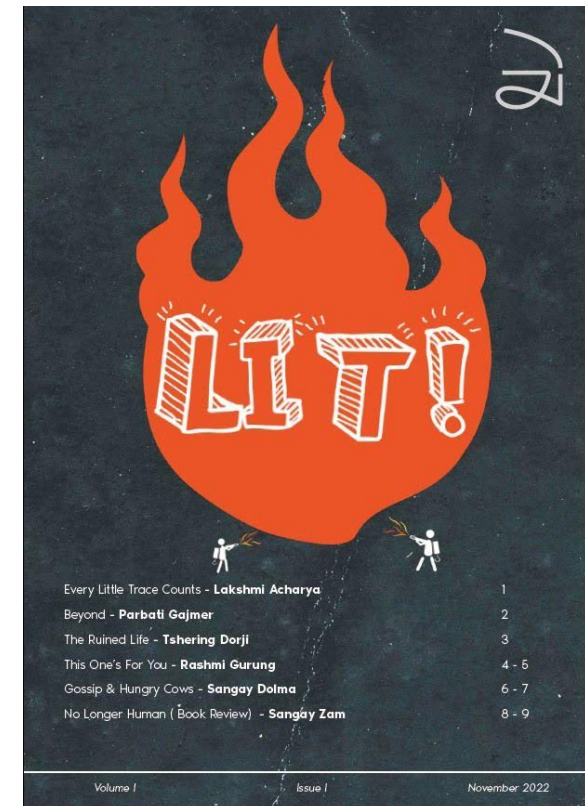
Student Journal of the Anthropology Programme,
Royal Thimphu College

Vol. 2, No. 1 (2022)

Jottings from the Field is a student lead journal that showcases the writings of Anthropology students in RTC. The journal is intended to both highlight the research of anthropology students as well as provide an opportunity for interested students to learn the skills needed to run a publication. The publication can be found here www.rtc.bt/index.php/academics/research/jottings-field

The Political Science and Sociology programme issued their 9th (volume 5, issue 1) publication of *Skepseis*. A Newsletter featuring reports, reflections, essays, and more by the students and faculty of Political Science and Sociology programme.

STUDENT RESEARCH JOURNAL



The English programme published the first issue of their Zine, *Lit!*, a bi-annual literary publication made up of the original works of students from the English Studies programme.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Royal Thimphu College held a Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness Programme on 9th November with the support of the Department of Disaster Management and Fire and Rescue Service Division of the Royal Bhutan Police. The programme started off with a campus-wide mock earthquake drill followed by a guest lecture by an official from the Department of Disaster Management. Mr. Chimi Dorji (Sr. Program Officer) gave a talk on Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction focused on fire prevention since fire hazards increase around this time of the year. Simultaneously, training on fire safety and management was conducted by the officials from the Royal Bhutan Police for the front-line staff and student representatives. The training included a demonstration of using fire extinguishers and handling LPG cylinders.

RTC LAUNCHES THE PEARSON VUE TEST CENTER



Royal Thimphu College successfully launched the Pearson VUE Test Center and conducted the first **Professional Education for SAI Auditors - Pilot (PESA-P) Assessment** on September 20th, 2022. From introductory to expert level, the Pearson VUE Test Center has the tools to help participants take the next step in their certification pathway. The center has access to the world's most recognized learning providers to offer a multi-modal training and testing solution featuring e-Learning materials, study guides, practice tests, and certification vouchers that will help increase exam pass rates and job performance.

Royal Thimphu College–University of Minnesota (USA) Collaboration on Accessibility and Inclusion in Bhutanese Higher Education



Royal Thimphu College in collaboration with the University of Minnesota (USA), organized a workshop on Accessibility and Inclusion in Bhutanese Higher Education on 18th October 2022. The workshop primarily focused on building knowledge and further understanding of inclusive higher education strategies and practices in the Bhutanese higher education and TVET sectors, emphasizing high-impact low-cost initiatives. The participants of the workshop were persons from higher education in Bhutan – university, colleges, technical training institutes, also including upper secondary schools involved in the transition to higher education. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Matt Schuelka and Dr. Chris Johnstone from the University of Minnesota and Ura Sonam Tshewang (Grants Coordinator, RTC).

Alumni Spotlight

Phurpa Tshering graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology in July 2018. He was one of the recipients of the Department of Adult and Higher Education (DAHE) scholarship. While in his 2nd year and final year of college at RTC, he served as a Resident Assistant (RA) and also served as a Teaching Assistant for Dzongkha communication to the international students. Phurpa also received the prestigious 'Outstanding Contribution to Student Life' award during his time at RTC. *"RTC is my light in the darkness. I was a young village boy who had not traveled beyond my own district and could only see the rest of the world only after I came to RTC. I had the great privilege of participating in a cultural exchange programme to Japan as a young goodwill ambassador. I also got the opportunity to participate in Nepal Padyatra on behalf of the Spiritual Club at the college. Besides academic achievements, I could also get wholesome experiences in leadership, management, interpersonal relationships, and cultural aspects."*

Phurpa remains deeply grateful to RTC as it played a significant role in his entire learning journey. He said that he had the privilege to learn under highly qualified tutors and had the opportunity to study with both Bhutanese and international students in one place. He added that being in the RTC community significantly enhanced his interpersonal communication skills and work ethic. It shaped him into a more confident person. Phurpa appeared Bhutan Civil Service Examination and qualified for the civil service. For a year, he worked as an assistant immigration officer with the Department of Immigration. Currently, he works as a researcher with the Center for Bhutan and GNH Studies, Thimphu.



ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

The RTC Alumni Association organized a Friendly Football Match between RTC Alumni and RTC Staff on 15th September 2022. The Association was launched in 2019 in an effort to keep our alumni connected with RTC even after they graduate.



RTC welcomes all its graduates to remain connected to the College through the RTC Alumni Association. We would like to hear from all our alumni about what you're up to.



DRUK TSHONGRIG GATOEN



Royal Thimphu College, in collaboration with Loden Foundation, organized the Druk Tshongrig Gatoen - DTG 2022 on 21st October at the RTC campus. A total of 6 teams of students from the Business programme participated in the Business Idea Pitch Competition. Druk Tshongrig Gatoen - DTG is Bhutan's first festival to promote and celebrate social entrepreneurship, intelligent businesses, and young entrepreneurs. The entire RTC community is grateful to Loden Foundation for supporting and inspiring our student entrepreneurs.

CMS VATAVARAN Film Festival and Forum



Photo Credit: CMS Vatavaran (Facebook)



Asia's biggest Environmental Film Festival and Forum: CMS VATAVARAN in collaboration with the Canadian High Commission of India and Bhutan organized the first-ever CMS Vatavaran Film Festival and Forum on Climate Action and Biodiversity Conservation at the Royal Thimphu College from November 2nd-4th, 2022. The festival and forum aimed to facilitate youth participation in planning, policy, and action in conserving the rich natural resources and environmental heritage of this nation. It hosted a series of several interesting programmes including film screenings, seminars, workshops, panel discussions, etc. focusing on the environmental, social, and economic aspects of climate-change and biodiversity conservation in the Greater Himalayan Region.

RTC COMPLETES FRIENDS PROJECT

The winners of the FRIENDS digital story-telling contest of 2022 from RTC along with students from 11 higher education institutions from Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines visited the Varna University of Management (VUM) in Dobrich, Bulgaria for the FRIENDS Boot Camp in June.



The Royal Thimphu College, in collaboration with Erasmus+ funded project FRIENDS held its Final Dissemination Conference in a hybrid mode from 20th - 21st October 2022. The online streaming of the event made it possible for the conference to reach more people around the globe.



FRIENDS Project is the first Erasmus+ Capacity Building Project for RTC. With the end of the project, the College has been able to improve the capabilities for internationalization through staff training and creating general awareness. Also, the promotion of virtual mobility and campus diversity has been prioritized for global competence development.





After more than one and half years since the HAPPY Project started, the team from the Vrije University Amsterdam and The University of Ljubljana and Leiden University finally visited the Bhutanese colleges. The visit included activities around the value of qualitative research for education, research, and society in general. The team also worked on planning and organization of what the project team will work on in the coming period to strengthen the qualitative research skills and knowledge in Bhutan.

Happy Milestones

1. QRM Sensitization Workshops for Higher Education Management at RTC in Thimphu, Establishment of Steering Committee, Draft Quality Assurance Plan in Nov 2021
2. First in-person ToT at RTC in Thimphu in December 2021
3. Part II and III of ToT in QRM in early 2022
4. Three sets of newsletters published between 2020 and 2022
5. Research inspired by the HAPPY project and also contributed by the HAPPY members; papers featured at National Conference on Higher Education July 2022
6. Interview by Erasmus+: HAPPY as inspirational story
7. LMS development in Spring 2022
8. HAPPY EU Members visited Bhutan in October 2022 for the Curriculum Workshop at CLCS in Trongsa and to get to know the partners more closely

Way Forward

1. HAPPY Bhutanese Members will attend the Advance ToT on “Supervising Student Research” in January - February 2023 for two weeks in Europe
2. LMS content generation
3. Publication of two research papers from RTC



<https://www.facebook.com/EntrepreneurshipEducationErasmusPlus>



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Royal Thimphu College organized the 1st & 2nd Regional Multiplier Event under the ENCORE project on the theme “Basic Entrepreneurship Training” on the 13th and 20th of August on campus. The main objective of the training was to create knowledge of entrepreneurship, especially for start-ups and entrepreneurs.

The training consisted of presentations, a series of guest lectures by successful entrepreneurs, and information on career and business opportunities in entrepreneurship. The training was attended by 45 participants, mostly Business students, students from other programmes, and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Way Forward

1. Innovative Entrepreneurship Case Challenge. An interactive method to enhance motivation and knowledge on an international level - October 2022 - December 2023
2. 12th Project Management meeting 22nd - 26th May 2023
3. International Conference on Innovative Entrepreneurship Practices in November 2023 - 1 keynote speaker from Europe and 1 from South Asia
4. ENCORE Final Conference scheduled for 11th - 15th December 2023





The RECALL Project (Green Entrepreneurship and Local Culture: Youth Workers on the Move) organized a three-day Local Boot Camp on Green Entrepreneurship and Circular Economy for Young Entrepreneurs and School Youths in Bhutan from 13th to 15th November 2022 at Royal Thimphu College.

The training was provided by experts within the partner countries from Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Thailand, and Bhutan. The training had an attendee of 45 students from 8 different schools in Thimphu and 16 entrepreneurs and Lecturers from Norbuling Rigtar College. The Boot Camp was Co-Funded by European Union and at the end of the training, all participants received their well-deserved #Youthpass certificate from the European Union.



Royal Thimphu College organized a half-day dissemination program on the 7th of December at the Entrepreneurship Knowledge Centre on campus. The dissemination program covered various sessions on all activities that have been successfully carried out throughout the project period from November 2020 to December 2022. Furthermore, they held a discussion with the various stakeholders on future collaboration and possibilities to work together on the next project. The event was attended by organizations such as the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, Tarayana Foundation, Entrepreneurs from IHub Bhutan, Global Shapers, and school teachers across Thimphu.



RTC INTERNATIONAL WEEK



Royal Thimphu College held a series of International Weeks on campus. We welcomed officials from our partner universities: VIKO (Lithuania), University of Tartu (Estonia), Pozege (Croatia), University of Huelva (Spain), ELTE (Hungary) in July, and SRH Heidelberg (Germany), WSB Poznan (Poland), and Budapest Metropolitan University (Hungary) in October, and DHBW Ravensburg (Germany) in November. A series of guest talks were held for the faculty, staff, and students of RTC on topics of internationalization, management, and info sessions on study abroad opportunities at our partner universities.

RTC Graduates Perform well in the 2022 BCSE!

As the year almost came to an end, it was yet another proud moment for RTC as two of our graduates topped the BCSE 2022 PGDPA category. Sonam Tobgay who graduated with a BA in Dzongkha and History ranked #1, and Karma Wangmo with a BA in English Studies ranked #3. Along with the toppers in the general category, several have been selected for various positions in the categories of PGDPA, PGDFM, and as Clinical Nurses from the first graduating cohort of BSc in Nursing and Midwifery.

Congratulations!



Sonam Tobgay
PGDPA, Rank #1



Karma Wangmo
PGDPA, Rank #3



Tshewang Dema
PGDFM



Chowing Zangmo
PGDFM



Ugyen Chornten
PGDFM



Sonam Norbu Lhaden
PGDPA



Anjala Subba
Clinical Nurse



Pelzom Dema
Clinical Nurse



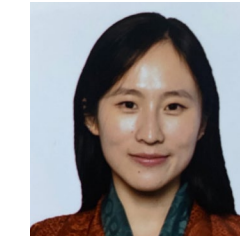
Tandin Pem
Clinical Nurse



Sangay Dechen
Clinical Nurse



Karma Yangchen
Clinical Nurse



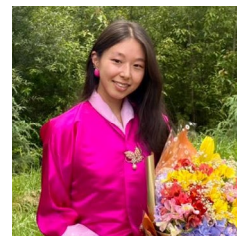
Yeshe Dema
Clinical Nurse



Tenzin Pema Yangzom
Clinical Nurse



Thuji Zangmo
Clinical Nurse



Samnten Deki Dema
Clinical Nurse



Dechen Lhamo
Clinical Nurse



Kumari Kepchaki
Clinical Nurse

RTC EVENTS



Teachers' Day Celebration



Spring Blood Drive Campaign



College Play by RTC Performing Arts Club (Spring Semester)



RTC Got Talent Season 2



Fall Blood Drive Campaign



College Play by RTC Performing Arts Club (Fall Semester)

RTC EVENTS



International Nurses Day Celebration



Nutrition and Dietetics Exhibition by Nursing Students



Oath-Taking Ceremony for 1st year Nursing Students




2022 Prize Award Day



Evolution of Photography Exhibition by Mass Comm students



Welcome Show for First Year Students



Royal Thimphu College
P.O.Box 1122
Ngabiphu, Thimphu, Bhutan
PABX: (975) 02-351801/802
Email: info@rtc.bt

www.rtc.bt / Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalThimphuCollege>