

TRONGSA PENLOP SCHOLARSHIPS (TPS)

ANNUAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE

FIRST ISSUE 2012



Long Live Their Majesties

Youngest Monarch with unwavering determination
May Thou art always be blessed
By the Great Guru and all Divine Beings
On Thy noble path towards Gross National Happiness

Everywhere including the remote unseen
There are footsteps of Their Majesties the King and Queen
Upon which success and happiness have grown
Adorn the Land of the Thunder Dragon we behold

High education which was once a dream
Like celestial water running downstream
The sweet nectar soothing our longing lips
Quenching our thirst through the Trongsa Penlop Fellowship

Long Live the Precious Protectors of youths in the country
We pledge that through utmost reverences deep in our hearts
We will serve the people across the board
Who are so fortunate to be members of Your Majesty's extended family



OAQN SAJSRGAMF (SHFfQ MfRS)

His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
and Her Majesty Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck of the Kingdom of Bhutan









KING JIGME KHESAR NAMGYEL WANGCHUCK
Kingdom of Bhutan

DR. ARTHIT OURAIRAT
President of Rangsit University

FELICITATION REMARKS FROM GYALPOI ZIMPON DASHO PENJORE, HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARIAT UNDER THE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE'S WELFARE AND WELL-BEING, THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

The Kidu Foundation is delighted to write this foreword for the first edition of the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship Magazine.

Education is one of the core thematic areas under His Majesty's Kidu Foundation and the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship (TPS) is one of its main scholarship schemes.The TPS scheme could not have been possible without the steadfast support and sincere commitment from His Excellency Dr. Arthit Ourairat, the President of Rangsit University. We offer our deepest gratitude to His Excellency and his truly professional staff at Rangsit University.

The TPS has provided and continues to provide scholarships to students from disadvantaged families and professionals from the education and fledging media sector. In addition, the TPS scheme has enabled our scholars to live in the beautiful nation of Thailand. Bhutan and Thailand share close bonds of friendship which have been strengthened throughout the years. Our nations share many similarities in terms of our rich vibrant culture and unconditional love for our Monarchs.

This magazine initiated by the scholars themselves marks the fifth year of TPS, which commenced in the historical year of 2008 when the formal Coronation of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck was held. It is our hope that this magazine will serve as an important communication tool for current TPS scholars and alumni.

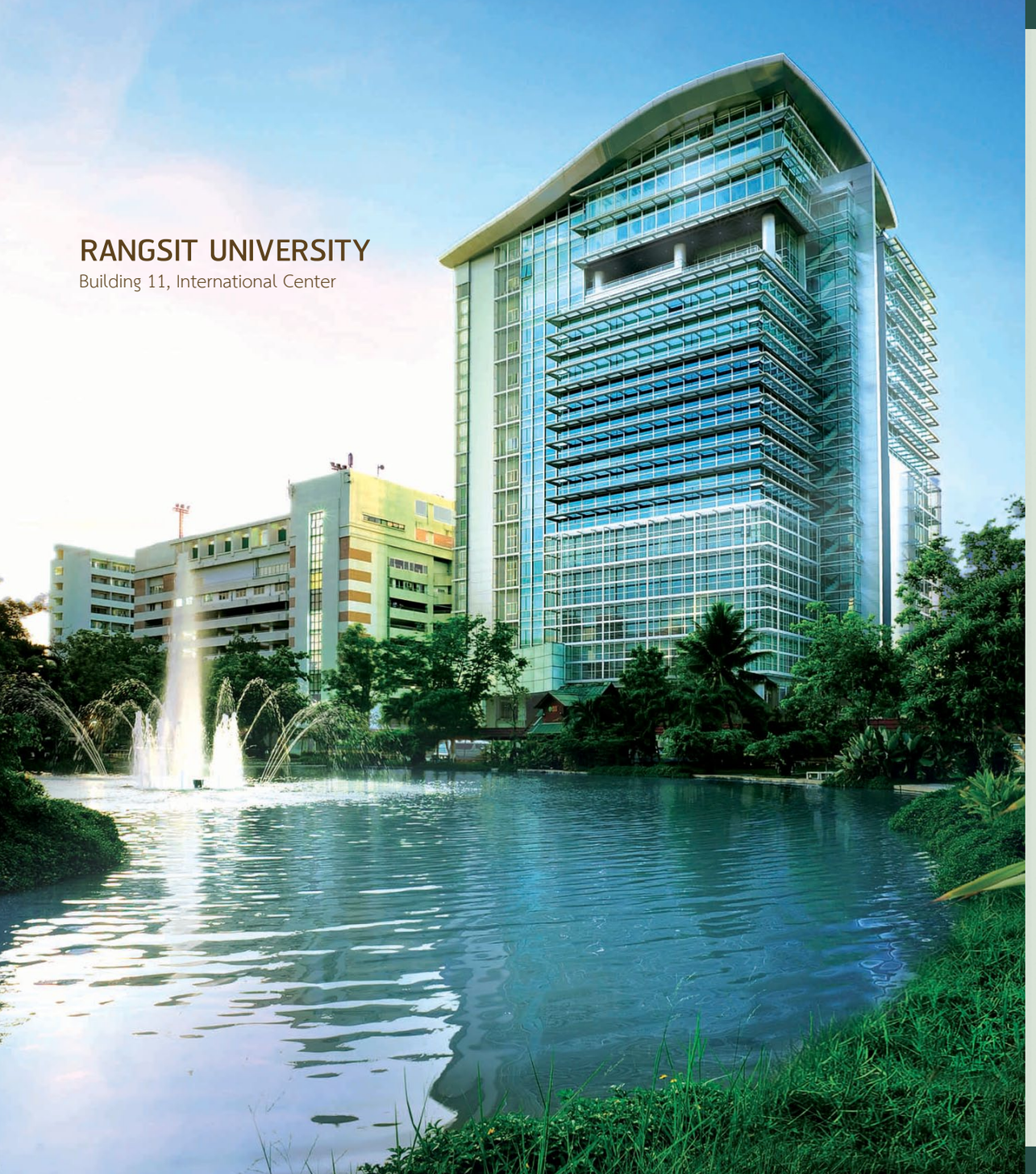
Trongsa Penlop Scholars represent the light that a wholesome education brings to an individual, a community and eventually a nation. We wish all our scholars an enriching educational experience at Rangsit University. May the light of knowledge never extinguish from their lives.

Tashi Delek!

ABOUT THE KIDU FOUNDATION

The Kidu Foundation was established under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King. Its inception came about from the overwhelming response received in the form of donations both monetary and in kind to the Kidu Fund which was set up under the aegis of the Office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon to assist the victims of the natural disasters that affected the country in 2009.

The Kidu Foundation today aspires and works to effectively complement government efforts to address critical issues in areas affecting the lives of underprivileged people, education, rule of law, democracy and media, sustainable economic development, and preservation of the country's environmental and cultural heritage.



RANGSIT UNIVERSITY
Building 11, International Center

FELICITATION REMARKS FROM **DR. ARTHIT OURAIRAT**
PRESIDENT OF RANGSIT UNIVERSITY



I would like to convey my heartfelt felicitation for the key person and editorial staff whose collective efforts to make the first copy of the First Trongsa Penlop Scholarships Annual Alumni Magazine have paid out extremely well. What impress me most were the well written verses and messages from the heart of the students under the Trongsa Penlop Scholarships which reflected their deep reverence to His Majesty, love and faith in the home land and the strong will to go back and take part in national development. I believe that the one key factor behind this success was the good selection procedure which had allowed ample opportunity for less privileged students in remote areas to have access to quality education.

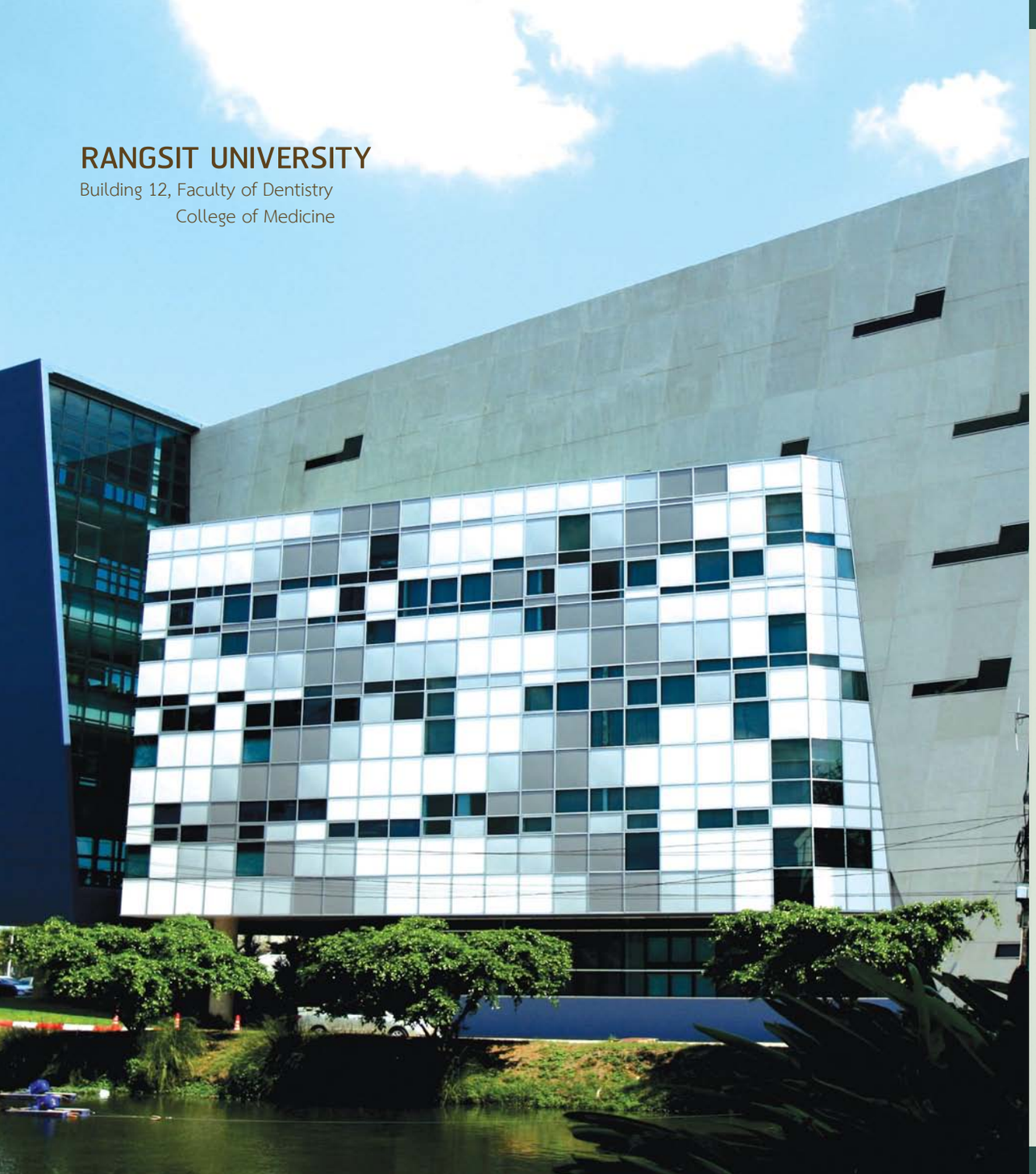
During my first visit to the Kingdom of Bhutan on September 26th 1996, I was extremely fortunate to have an opportunity to humbly have an audience with His Majesty who was then HRH Trongsa Penlop, the Crown Prince of Bhutan. I remembered extremely well His Majesty's vision on youth and national development,

> **"Education is one of the most important national agenda, most particularly when youths constitute major part of the population. Development must cover all the youths across the board as they are the foundation of national development in the future. They should have access to education and jobs."**

Since then the inception of RCSC-RSU's Trongsa Penlop Fellowship has essentially evolved into a continuing cooperation between the two countries. At Rangsit University we will do our best to enhance our joint human resources development endeavor for mutual benefit. In today's world, everyone is teaching, everyone is learning. Our staffs and students also learn a lot from Bhutan and Bhutanese students.

To date by His Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen's **"duty above self"** dedication and deliberations for across the board GNH development, I have fervent wish and pray that Bhutan will be able to preserve the most precious legacy of the country's spiritual, cultural and natural heritage and the values that has held Bhutanese society together through the ages. In many so-called democratic societies, people may think that there are much questions and answers. In Bhutan, with the power of youths with wisdom, well rounded knowledge and experiences and strong determination to serve the country, people could expect that there will be answer to every question in not a far future. And of course you the TPS graduates will be among the development engines of the promising future.

Arthit Ourairat



RANGSIT UNIVERSITY

Building 12, Faculty of Dentistry
College of Medicine

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) magazine.

During the early part of this year, I was asked by a few Bhutanese scholarship students about the idea of creating an annual magazine for Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS).

In fact during the meeting, I was presented with a very nice draft compiling contributions from past and current students over a course of more than a year.

At first, I was a bit adamant because I am fully aware that the Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) agreement was something very important and personal to our president, Dr. Arthit Ourairat.

I knew that the agreement was based on the noble idea of helping the human resource development of the Kingdom of Bhutan and was signed with the utmost sincerity and humility without accepting anything in return.

However I was told by the students that the main objective of this project is to let the people at large know what is happening to them while studying at Rangsit University and for the past five years since the agreement was signed, nobody really knows.

More importantly, this is their way to express their deepest gratitude and love to His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of the Kingdom of Bhutan, to the President of Rangsit University, and to all the people instrumental in achieving their present status.

When we had the chance to mention this project to the Secretary to His Majesty the King, the Kingdom of Bhutan, while attending an international education fair in Thimphu, Bhutan in March 2012, the response was very encouraging and supportive.

It was noted during the discussion that the project is very beneficial to the scholarship students so they would have a way to reach out to the network and also a chance to share their experiences of how the scholarship has helped them in their lives.

It would also serve as a way for the past alumni to inform the Royal Government of the Bhutan of their present whereabouts and to use the magazine as an initial impetus to pay back to the society and to the government that improved their lives.

The first issue of this magazine is a compilation of personal anecdotes, poems, and activities of the students while studying at Rangsit University.

The stories illustrate the impact the scholarship have made to them and how they managed to live in a foreign land completely different from their own country.

We will also have a glimpse into the hearts and minds of these students, there backgrounds, aspirations and dreams.

The Editorial Team wishes that with the release of this first issue, we could provide a voice behind the scholarship students and a promising future for the youth of tomorrow.

Enjoy reading.

Rolly Canonoy

CONTENTS

Felicitation Remarks from Gyalpoi Zimpon Dasho Penjore, His Majesty's Secretariat under the Office for People's Welfare and Well-Being, the Kingdom of Bhutan 5

Felicitation Remarks from Dr. Arthit Ourairat, President of Rangsit University 6

Editorial 9

Brief Background of Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) Agreement 12

Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) Logo And Significance 14

Brief Introduction of Rangsit University 18

Demographic Profile of Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) Scholars 22

Pictures of Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) Scholars 26

POEMS

- TO MY COUNTRY AND SELFLESS KING 38
- HE IS MY KING 39
- GREAT WISHES TO HIS MAJESTY 40
- WISHING YOU FROM A DISTANCE 41
- THE ROYAL WEDDING 45

SHARINGS AND ANECDOTES

- STILL I HAVE A DREAM 48
- THE INNER VOICE OF AN UNHEARD SOUL 51
- THE BREATH-TAKING EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE 54
- A NEW LIFE JOURNEY 59
- MY FIRST TIME AWAY FROM HOME 66
- JOURNEY TO EDUCATION 70
- MY KING AND SAVIOUR: THE EPITOME OF ALL KINGLY AND GODLY QUALITIES 74
- BHUTAN AND HER KING 77
- DEDICATION TO MY KING 80
- MY BIRTHDAY WISHES 82
- THE CHOSEN SON 84
- THE ALARM CLOCK OF MY LIFE 87
- CHANGES IN MY LIFE 89
- THE ROYAL WEDDING 91
- TEACHERS IN THE EYES OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING 93
- WHY I LOVE THAILAND 95
- TWO TPS ALUMNI TOPPED THE RCSC EXAM IN 2012 97
- IMPORTANCE OF TPS MAGAZINE TO PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE RECIPIENTS 101

BHUTANESE PROVERBS 102

ACTIVITY PICTURES 108

FRONT COVER DESIGN 127

EDITORIAL TEAM 128

BRIEF BACKGROUND OF TRONGSA PENLOP SCHOLARSHIPS (TPS) AGREEMENT





The President of Rangsit University, Dr. Arthit Ourairat, visited the Kingdom of Bhutan from September 25-28, 2006 and met with H.E. Ugyen Tshering, Minister of Labor and Human Resources, H.E. Ambassador Lhatu Wangchuck, Director General of Department of Tourism and Dasho Bap Kesang, Secretary of the Royal Civil Service Commission, and was granted an audience with the then HRH Crown Prince who graciously conveyed the utmost importance of human resource development of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Thus to commemorate the ascension to the throne of H.M. King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the fifth King of Bhutan, on December 14, 2006, and with deepest respect to the Kingdom and the people of Bhutan, Rangsit University wishes to commit its resources to the people of Bhutan, and to strengthen the relationship between the two Kingdoms and its people.



The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Rangsit University and the Royal Civil Service Commission of the Royal Government of Bhutan on August 23, 2007 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

One of the main objectives of the agreement is to jointly develop and implement educational programs that will support the sustainable long-term Human Resource Development of the Kingdom of Bhutan through the provision of scholarships specific to the needs for human resource development of the country.

To mark the auspicious occasion of the visit of the then HRH Crown Prince to Rangsit University in November 2006, the scholarship was dedicated to HRH and bear the name 'Trongsa Penlop Scholarships'.

Under the terms of agreement, Rangsit University will provide for each academic year Full scholarships in Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Administration, as well as in other Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degree programs and Tuition fee scholarships in Certificate-Level Short Term Courses.

To commemorate the official coronation of H.M. King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in 2008, additional scholarships were offered in the field of Civil Engineering.

To celebrate the joyous occasion of H.M. King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's wedding in 2011, additional scholarships were offered in the field of Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Medicine.

The duration of the collaboration is for ten years, commencing in the academic year of 2008 and upon termination, the parties may decide to renew the agreement.

TRONGSA PENLOP SCHOLARSHIPS (TPS) LOGO AND SIGNIFICANCE



The explanation of the Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) logo and its significance are:

1. **Yellow Color in the Upper Half of Circle** – Represents the first of the three scholarships provided by His Majesty the King – the King's Scholarship, which is available in Bhutan and overseas. It also symbolizes the secular authority of the Wangchuck dynasty.

2. **'Trongsa Penlop Scholarship' text in the Upper Half of Circle** – The official name of this scholarship and also signifies as an offering from Dr. Arthit Ourairat, President of Rangsit University, to His Majesty the King while he was on the Trongsa Penlop (Crown Prince) throne.

3. **Graduation Cap and Diploma in the Upper Half of Circle** – Signifies that the Trongsa Penlop Scholarships agreement covers both Short-Term Courses and Full-Term Degree programs.

4. **Orange Color in the Lower Half and Outside of Circle** – Represents the second of the three scholarships provided by His Majesty the King – Trongsa Penlop Scholarships, which is available overseas. The two variations of the Orange color represent the Drukpas monastery and Buddhist religion.

5. **Logo in the Lower Half of Circle** – Represents the logo of Rangsit University.

6. **'Rangsit University Thailand' text in the Lower Half Circle** – Represents the name and location of the university where the students would complete their studies under this agreement.

7. **'Trongsa Penlop Scholarship' and 'Rangsit University Thailand' text in the Upper and Lower Half of the Circle respectively** – Represents the joint and equal partnership between the Royal Government of Bhutan and Rangsit University in Thailand in strengthening the relationship between the two Kingdoms and in supporting the sustainable long-term Human Resource Development of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

8. **Green Leaf outside the Circle** - Represents the last of the three scholarships provided by His Majesty the King - to students from less fortunate families and with physical disabilities, which is available only in Bhutan. The aim is to help them continue their studies until Grade 12 if they were unable to do so.
The Green color also signifies the pursuit of Human Resource Development of the Kingdom of Bhutan such that when a seed is sown, the people would be assured of a fruitful and productive harvest in the future.

Remarks : *The Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) logo was a collaborative design of the students who are also members of the Editorial Team.*

RANGSIT UNIVERSITY



RANGSIT UNIVERSITY

Situated in an area of 296 rais (118.4 acres) in Pathumthani province and only 3 kilometers from Don Muang Airport, Rangsit University is located in a quiet and peaceful community of Muang-Ake surrounded by two golf courses, lakes and small park in a fresh air and clean environment.

Rangsit University has grown rapidly since its establishment in 1986 to become the most comprehensive and leading private university in Thailand known for its academic excellence and international standards.

The programs at Rangsit University are strategically designed and developed based on the principle that students should be encouraged to achieve their fullest potential to reach the top of their profession.

At Rangsit University, the core values encompass academic excellence, ethical practice, outstanding personality, great leadership, good health and social responsibility.

FACTS AND FIGURES (AS OF AUGUST 2012)

- Four academic areas cover Medical and Health Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Architecture and Design, and Humanities and Social Sciences
- 31 faculties and colleges offering 82 Bachelor degrees, 34 Master degrees, and 8 Doctoral degrees
- 2,540 courses or subjects
- 6,770 undergraduate and 537 graduate students admitted in June 2012
- 25,358 registered students comprising 24,167 undergraduate and 1,191 graduate students
- Full-time members comprising 1,135 faculty and 1,207 supporting staff



Viphavadee Center

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR DEGREES

1. International Business
2. Communication Arts
3. Philosophy, Politics and Economics
4. International Relations and Development
5. Information and Communication Technology <Double-Degree>
6. Asian Business Management
7. International Hotel Management <Double-Degree>
8. Dental Surgery (Thai-English)
9. Nursing Science (Thai-English) <Double-Degree>
10. Business Administration (Chinese)
11. Commercial Pilot (Thai-English)
12. Accountancy
13. Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering <Unified Bachelor-Master Degree>

MASTER DEGREES

1. Bilingual Education
2. Diplomacy and International Studies
3. Innovation and Entrepreneurship <Double-Degree>





RANGSIT UNIVERSITY

Building 15, Digital Multimedia Complex

FACULTIES AND COLLEGES



MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

1. College of Medicine
2. Faculty of Dentistry
3. Faculty of Pharmacy
4. Faculty of Nursing Science
5. Faculty of Medical Technology
6. Faculty of Physical Therapy
7. Faculty of Oriental Medicine
8. Faculty of Science
9. Faculty of Optometry

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

10. Faculty of Biotechnology
11. Faculty of Information Technology
12. College of Engineering

ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

13. Faculty of Art and Design
14. Faculty of Digital Art
15. Faculty of Architecture

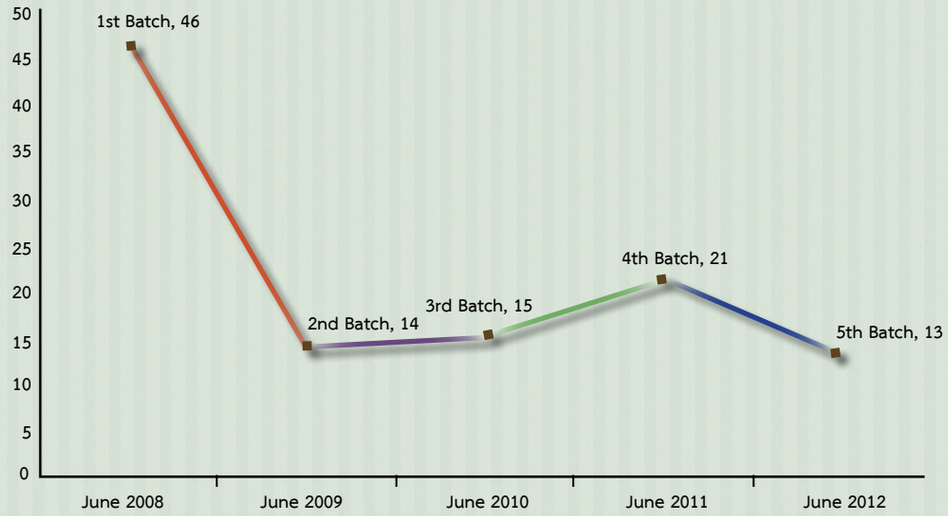
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

16. Faculty of Business Administration
17. Faculty of Accountancy
18. Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Industry
19. Faculty of Economics
20. Faculty of Liberal Arts
21. Faculty of Communication Arts
22. Faculty of Law
23. The Conservatory of Music
24. College of Social Innovation
25. Aviation Institute
26. Chinese Business School
27. International College
28. Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies
29. Faculty of Education
30. Public Administration Institute

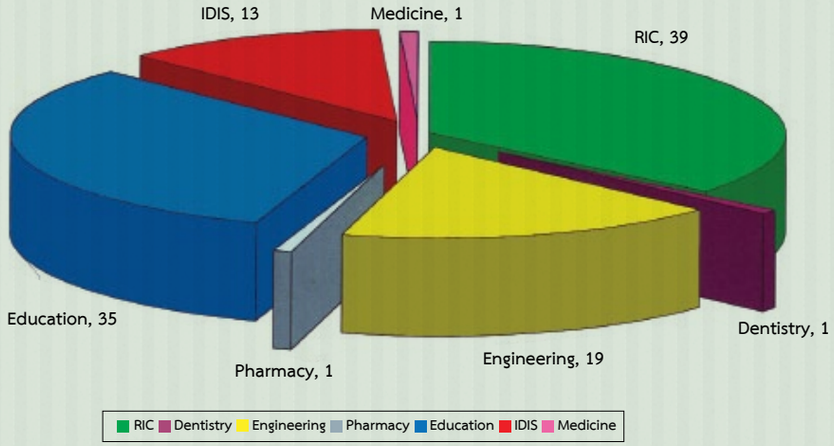


Building 15, Digital Multimedia Complex

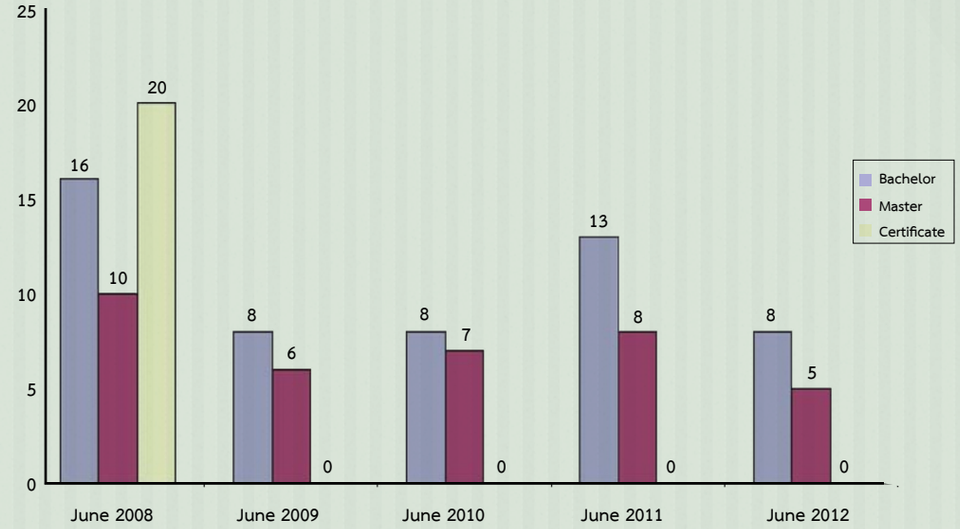
TOTAL NUMBER OF TPS STUDENTS PER YEAR



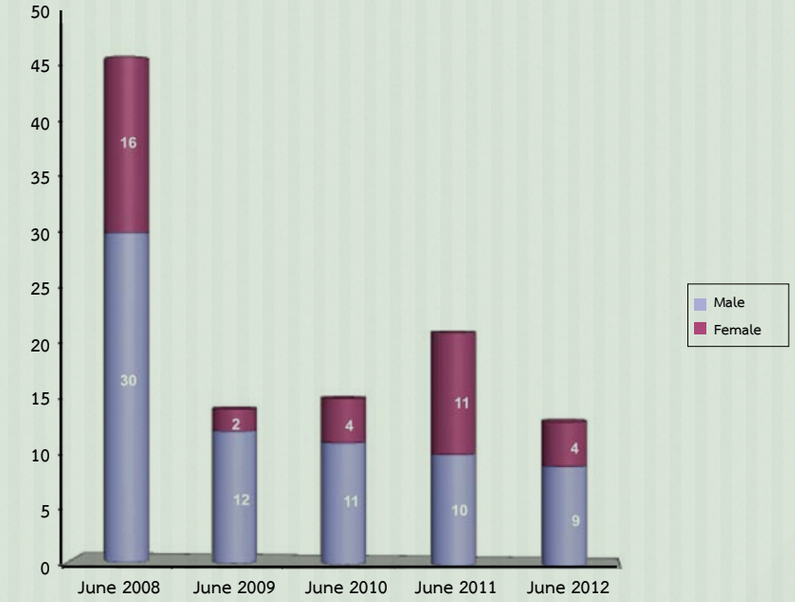
DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF TPS STUDENTS IN FACULTIES AND COLLEGES



PROGRAM LEVEL DISTRIBUTION OF TPS STUDENTS PER YEAR

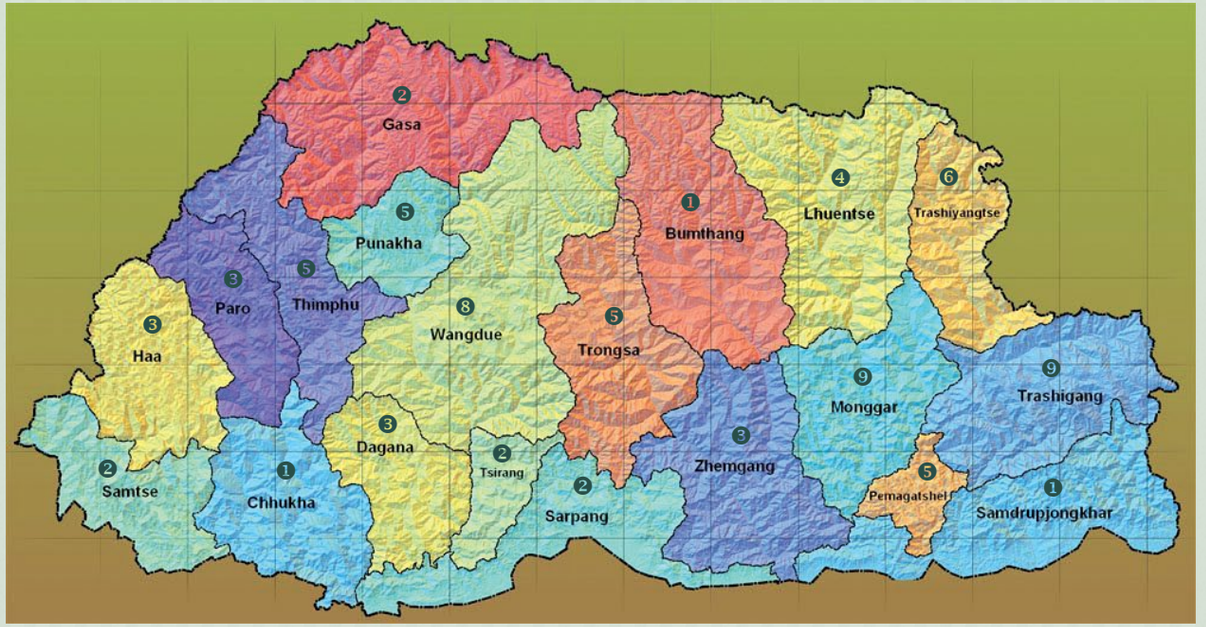


GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF TPS STUDENTS PER YEAR





DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS



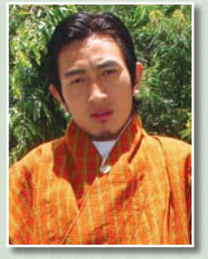
1ST BATCH (JUNE 2008)



Dorji Khandu
Civil Engineering



Jigme Zangmo
Civil Engineering



Thingley Dorji
Civil Engineering



Sangay Zangmo
Civil Engineering



Sonam Om
Civil Engineering



Sangay Peldhen
Civil Engineering



Sonam Zangmo
Information and Communication Technology



Kelzang Wangpo
Civil Engineering



Ugyen Dorji
Civil Engineering



Deki
International Business



Karma Wangdi
Civil Engineering



Tshering Buthri
Communication Arts



Tendri Gyeltshen
International Business



Namgay Rinchen
Philosophy, Politics and Economics



Pema Wangdi
Philosophy, Politics and Economics



Demba
Communication Arts

SHORT-TERM PROGRAM

CONCRETE PRODUCTION	TEACHING METHODOLOGY
1. Mr. Jangchub Gyeltshen	1. Mr. Ganesh Chhetri
2. Mr. C.B Mongar	2. Mr. Karma
3. Mr. Sangay Wangdi	3. Mr. Sonam Gyamtsho
4. Mr. Kinga Gyeltshen	4. Ms. Karma Dema
5. Ms. Leki Choden	5. Ms. Pema Choden
6. Mr. Tshering Wangchuk	6. Mr. Ugyen Dorji
7. Mr. Tshering Nidup	7. Mr. Sangay Tempa
8. Ms. Sangay Wangmo	8. Mr. Pema Gyeltshen
9. Ms. Karma	9. Mr. Birkha Bahadur
10. Ms. Rinchen Wangmo	10. Mr. Yeshi Jamtsho

1ST BATCH (JUNE 2008)



Pema Chhoedup
Educational Administration



Sonam Pelden
Diplomacy & International Studies



Dorji Gyalpo
Educational Administration



Rinchen Gyeltshen
Educational Administration



Karchung
Diplomacy & International Studies



Deki Choden
Educational Administration



Kencho Tshering
Diplomacy & International Studies



Sonam Dema
Diplomacy & International Studies



Pema Rinzin
Educational Administration



Rinchen Phuntsho
Diplomacy & International Studies





Tashi Wangmo
International Business



Dema Yangzom
International Business



Sonam Dorji
Information and Communication Technology



Yeshi Jamtsho
Communication Arts



Tashi Rabdhen
Communication Arts



Penchela
Communication Arts



Namkhai Norbu
Diplomacy & International Studies



Karma Tenzin
Diplomacy & International Studies



Kinley Wangchuk
Diplomacy & International Studies



Kencho Wangdi
Educational Administration



Pemba T. Gyeltshen
Educational Administration



Parshuram Chhetri
Educational Administration



Tsheten Tshering
Educational Administration



Sonam Tshering
Educational Administration

2nd BATCH (JUNE 2009)

"Throughout my reign, I will rule you as a king. I will protect you as a parent, care for you as a brother, and serve you as a son. I shall give you everything and keep nothing. I shall live such a life as a good human being that you may find it worthy to serve as an example for your children. I have no personal goals other than to fulfill your hopes and aspirations. I shall always serve you day and night, in the spirit of kindness and equality..."

His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck



3rd BATCH (JUNE 2010)



Pema Tshering
Communication Arts



Rada Wangmo
International Business



Tshering Lhendup
International Relations and Development



Sonam Loday
International Business



Sonam Dema
International Business



Kaylzang Tshering Tashi
International Relations and Development



Passang Dorji
International Relations and Development



Norbu Wangdi
Information and Communication Technology



Chakra Subba
Curriculum and Instruction



Choki Beda
Curriculum and Instruction



Namgay Dukpa
Curriculum and Instruction



Kelzang Wangchuk
Curriculum and Instruction



Rinzin Lham
Curriculum and Instruction



Ugyen Nidup
Diplomacy and International Studies



Sangay Dorji
Diplomacy and International Studies

3rd BATCH (JUNE 2010)

"If our vision for the nation is not contained in the pages of the books that our young children hold, in the words of our teachers as they lead their classrooms, and in the education policies of our governments, then let it be said - we have no vision.

A nation's future will mirror the quality of her youth - a nation can not fool herself into thinking of a bright future when she has not invested wisely in her children"

His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck



4th BATCH (JUNE 2011)



Pema Kota
International Relations and Development



Karma Wangmo
Information and Communication Technology



Ugyen
International Business



Dorji Lhaden
International Business



Sonam Wangdi
Information and Communication Technology



Yeshi Choden
Communication Arts



Karma Lhaden
International Relations and Development



Sangay Pelden
Communication Arts



Dorji Rinchen
Dentistry



Tenzin Dorji
Medicine



Tshering Lhamo
Information and Communication Technology



Sonam Tshering
Pharmacy



Kuenzang Dem
Communication Arts



Ngawang Pem
Diplomacy and International Studies



Gopal Thapa
Curriculum and Instruction

4th BATCH (JUNE 2011)



Tshering Dekar
Curriculum and Instruction



Babita Bhujel
Curriculum and Instruction



Rinchen Choden
Curriculum and Instruction



Lhamo Dukpa
Curriculum and Instruction



Tenzin Namgay
Diplomacy and International Studies



Sonam Rinchen
Diplomacy and International Studies





Ugyen Yeshi Lhendup
International Business



Kinzang Wangchuk
Philosophy, Politics and Economics



Tshewang Rinzin
Communication Arts



Dukpo Wangdi
Communication Arts



Tashi Dhendup
International Business



Thinley Choden
International Business



Dhendup Tshering
Information and Communication Technology



Sonam Euden
Curriculum and Instruction



Yeshey Nidup
Curriculum and Instruction



Yeshi Dema
Curriculum and Instruction



Ugyen Namgay
Curriculum and Instruction



Prem Kumar
Curriculum and Instruction



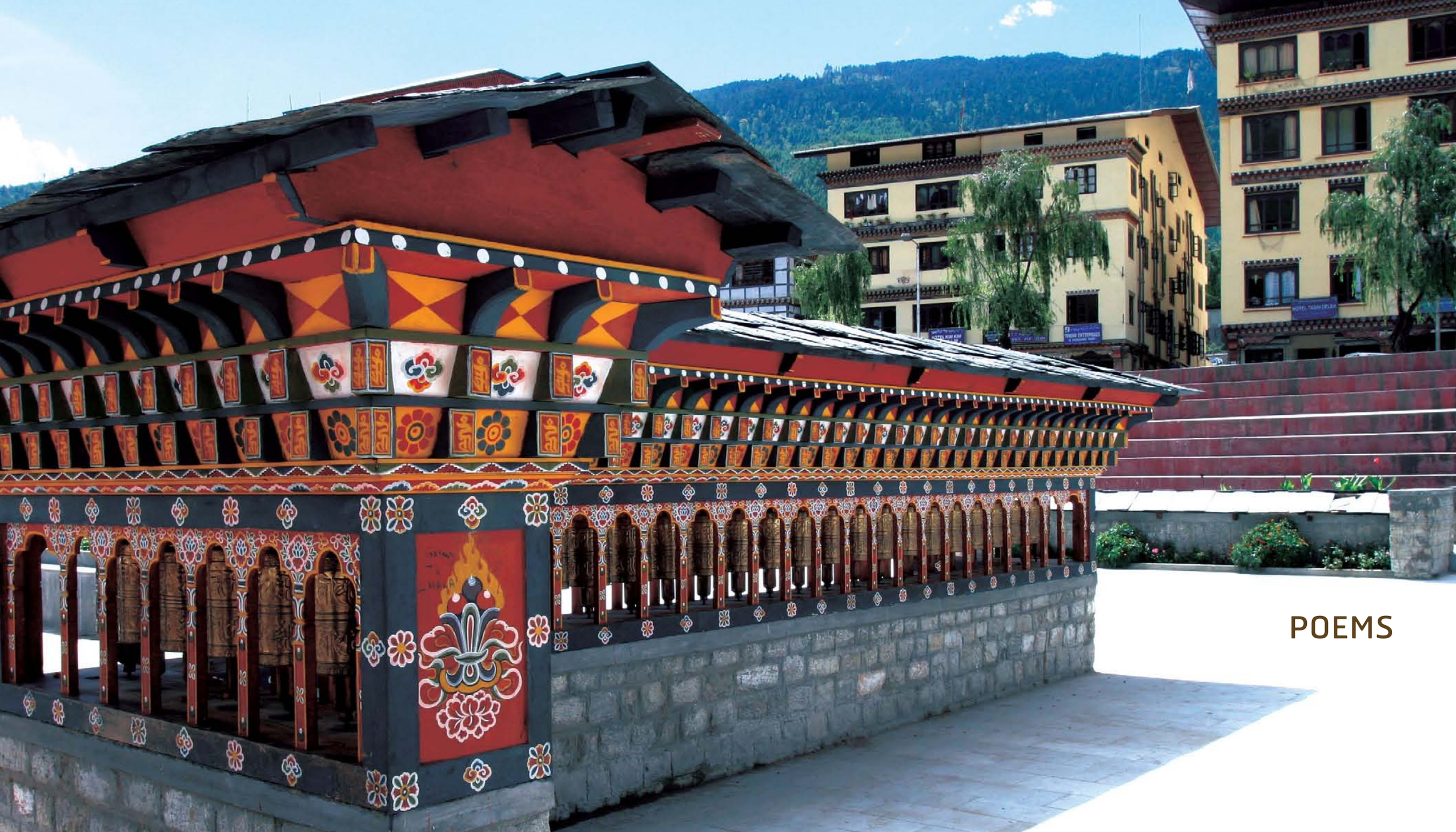
Yangzom
Curriculum and Instruction

5th BATCH (JUNE 2012)

"Bhutan's success or failure will ultimately depend on the strength of your commitment - your willingness to embrace challenges and hardwork. Unlike other countries, with our small population, it is not enough that a few of you excel - every single one of you must strive to be the best. This is the only way you can secure the future of our nation - through excellence."

His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck





POEMS



Lhamo Dukpa
4th Batch

TO MY COUNTRY AND SELFLESS KING

From the tiniest of tiny
Bounded by pristine environment
Richest of rich culture
Lies a heavenly country - Bhutan
Known to the world
As land of Gross National Happiness

People may be deprived
Of modern sophisticated technology
And luxuries of life
But they are virtually contented
Believes in simplicity
Governed by Buddhist philosophy

I am fortunate to be borne in this country
Where people cared for each other
Where the King sought the welfare of his subjects
And love and care more than thy self

Now I am far away sucking the nectar
From a world of great wisdom
Through the wise masters of Rangsit
With support and guidance from my King
To whom my gratitude never ceases

All I can do for now
Is to pray for a peaceful and eternal life
For His Majesty, the People's King
And to both my beloved King and Queen
For all the heavenly love and good reign

HE IS MY KING

My King is neither the holder of power nor beholder of pride
His palace has no iron fences and furious warriors
He is in the crowd, in the hut, and in the playground
He is everywhere with his people
My protector and my lord

My King is great, powerful and rich
Although uncommon and guarded by a thousand yard
He can be anywhere to where his arms would stretch
One wonders why he didn't miss the earthly prestige

My King is inexplicable even oceans obscure him
He will not be harmed by the brute and lured by the greedy
My King is the leader of greatness
And the chieftain of kindness

My King supplies all our needs
A parent to the unfortunate and deliverer to the imprisoned
He is guide to the young and servant to the elders
My King provides reward to the diligent

My King gave wealth and so much happiness
He gave us worldly possessions and defined my life
How could I repay all the happiness back to him?
How could I ever pay back I have neither jewels nor wisdom?

My fervent prayer of gratefulness only a muffle heard
To offer him as a weapon to protect my nation eternally
I have prayed for my King's good wishes to fulfill
His aspirations quenched and dreams a reality

He is my King, the People's King



Kelzang Wangpo
1st Batch



Karma Lhaden
4th Batch



GREAT WISHES TO HIS MAJESTY

It seems to be the happiest day for me
For all the days that have passed by
Months seems flying for awhile
I don't know where they are heading by

We are fortunate to have a King like you
You have lighted the darkness of not a few
I thank you for making our life full of wonder
The love for you in our hearts will never asunder

You are the godfather of our nation
Wishing you greatly with hearts filled immensely
With fervent faith happiness and peace
We offer prayers that never cease

I used to paint your portrait
The most beautiful thing that ever created
Just looking at your awesome presence
Makes one forget his mortal existence

Blessed by many holy lamas
Beloved entity flourished by the dharma
In the heart of the Himalayas
Lies the People's King of Bhutan



Dorji Rinchen
4th Batch

WISHING YOU FROM A DISTANCE

The sun shines a little brighter
The world seems a little nicer
Music sounds a little sweeter
Smiles come a little easier
The day seems a little shorter

Today I can feel the tenderness
Like I am your valuable treasure
You remind me that I am worthy
To know my thought would matter and count
My feelings take priority and my heart without a qualm

I know beyond the shadow of doubt
That you are out there waiting
Thinking of me as your youth
To be my best and nothing else to boot
You are my one and true love

Since birth until more than five months ago
I have been experiencing this phenomenon
At the root of my interpersonal difficulty
I was like a ship tossed and driven through
Drifting away to offshore

Sometimes I was so discouraged
But then I have been encouraged
By the words you sent my way

And your helpfulness and kindness
With your never-ending grace

They seem to be sent just for me
Straight from the gods above
Your words, actions and encouragement
Have always brighten up my day
I only dreamt to be my undying solution

You diminished my uncomfortable feelings
I thought life was an illusion of mind
So impossible to find a perfect way
But the day I knew you I began to see
That life is real and exists in me

Today I sit singing hymns to you
I surrender my worries to thee
Then for the rest of my days
Will do my best and give you praise
I will serve you in everything that I do

I may not be always right or wrong
But this I know much I owe my life to you
You picked me up when I struggled to get through
You healed my heart when I was thrown and shattered
And gave me hope when I seemed out of reach

You filled me with peace when chaos flowed through my veins
You gave me comfort when my voice cried out in pain
You kept me going when it seemed nowhere to go

When everyone strayed away you stayed with me through
You gave me purpose when life seemed so meaningless

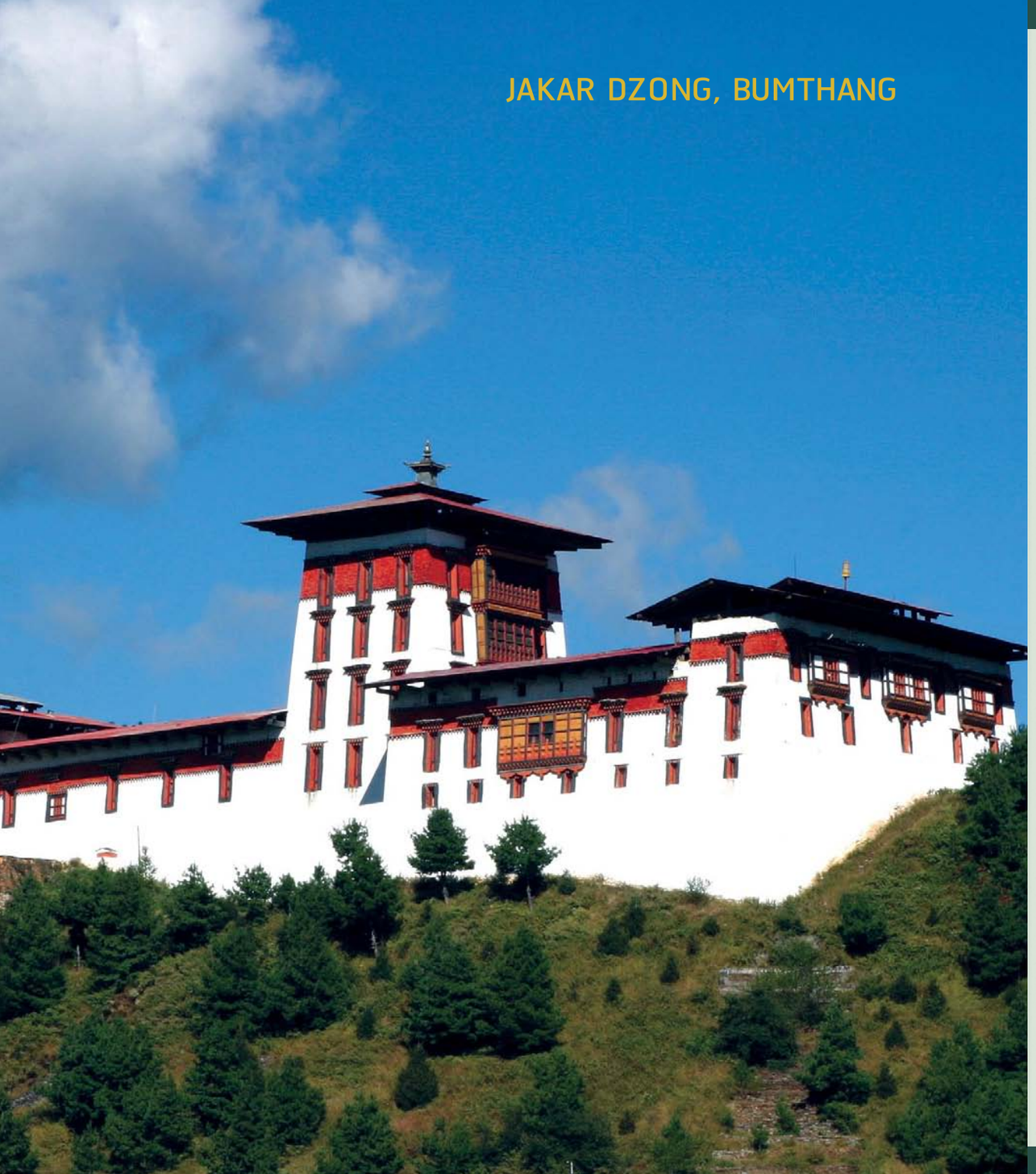
Such a special date is here
A day within a great year
A landmark age and a bell to toll
Thirty two years and a soul too strong

As the youngest of your kin
I knew you from the time I was born
And I grew under your inspiration
More than son and more than a father to me

Your birthday is not about how old you are
But about the family coming together
All of us staying now and forever
With prayers of gladness and wishing you well

That I can not be there today
Is something I can not change for now
But I wish you with so much happiness
I pray for your health and long life
And to be with you for many generations to come

Today I stand here to salute you
And offer myself to you
Happy birthday my beloved King
And may god be always with you



JAKAR DZONG, BUMTHANG

THE ROYAL WEDDING



Tenzin Dorji
4th Batch

The land showered with happiness and tranquility
Sandwiched between two gigantic countries
A haven for heavenly inhabitants – Drukpas

The dragon king as we loved and revered
Precious to the hearts of every citizen
His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

With humble gratification I pray for a joyous occasion
For His royal wedding to Gyeltsuen Jetsun Pema
I lay down my good wishes of luck for all to see

In an auspicious era to the land of happiness
The royal announcement has brought ultimate joys to all
The people could not wait to join and celebrate

Humbly born to a commoner with distant royal blood
The royal bride has pure heart and compassionate beauty
It is just amazing to have a future great queen

May the almighty blessed you with absolute happiness
With many years of good health and prosperity
To continue the unprecedented Wangchuck dynasty

With prayers of greatness from our guardian deities
And the infinite karmic connection of the locals
May happiness and peace reign in your presence

As we celebrate a historic royal wedding
For the well-being of its people and furtherance of dharma
May the legendary come to existence in the future

The shimmering rays of your presence and unheard voice
Be spoken with the liberating discourse of the ignored
May Pelden Drukyul (Land of the Thunder Dragon) prosper
and victory to gods be hummed

PUNAKHA DZONG



SHARINGS AND ANECDOTES



Dorji Lhaden
4th Batch

STILL I HAVE A DREAM

Life is like a pendulum that oscillates between tears and smile and where bitter memories of being a victim at the hands of an iron heart still lingers fresh in ones mind. Life is really sour when we failed to be our best.

Our loved ones seem to turn away from us when we are in dilemma. The saying 'blood is thicker than water' sometimes could be untrue.

So I think life can be compared to a beautiful flower when it blooms, the bees are so attracted to it. But when they withered, the bees won't be bothered anymore.

Every one goes through the course of their lives and then dies. Nobody is exempt from this phenomenon. We are born from our parents who gave us their utmost love and care.

They brought us into this world and sacrifice everything for us. But we will not fully understand their hardships until we find ourselves taking over their place.

My life has been an ocean of sorrow and a bottomless pit of misery when my parents died leaving all their siblings behind as orphans.

I went through an emotional experience that I cannot define. I was unhappy and craved for the love of my lost parents. Being the eldest of siblings, I was supposed to be a role model and take over the responsibilities left by my parents but I failed.

I failed because I behave like an 'animal' and unable to fulfill the expectations from me. I failed to bring happiness to my loved ones. I remember walking alone listening to the beat of my heart with the words 'still I have a dream'.

I felt isolated and unable to cope with my normal activities because I cannot help But remembering my parents. During this time of suffering, those who consoled me were my teachers and close friends.

On my school days, my teacher (Madam Sonam Zangmo) would teach me to be optimistic, to learn a lesson from my every day mistakes and to move on with our precious life.

Every day she would call me and gave wise counsel to prevent me from falling into a state of mental illness. There were times I thought that the world is not a perfect one and maybe is not meant for me.

Little do I know that one day, I would become part of the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship.

And so the story of my selection begins...

I was two months into completing my 12th grade when people from the Office of His Majesty's Secretariat came and talk to the poor but deserving students of my school and I was fortunate to be one of them.

The year ended and I wasn't even selected to study in any of the institutes in the country or overseas.

And then suddenly to my surprise, I was informed to be one of the successful candidates under the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship of our beloved King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

The day I got the news I couldn't control myself and tears started rolling down my eyes. My teachers were so happy for me and my relatives and friends were also excited.

I thought my soul knows the geography of my destiny. And it alone has the map of my future so I should trust my indirect, oblique side of myself.

My beloved King has given me another chance to fulfill my dreams, to stand on my own feet and to fight for my own right. One important thing

is that he ‘unite my broken family’ to be together again which means a lot to us.

Now I will keep no stones unturned and will not leave my dreams unfulfilled. I don’t want to go back to my old memories anymore but instead move on with “still I have a dream” message in my heart.

Every day I prayed “long live to my beloved King and Queen” and promise to serve my Tsa-Wa-Sum (Triple Gem) with my full duty and responsibility. From the bottom of my heart, I thank His Majesty the King for granting this scholarship to students like me.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to some important people in my life.

First to my former principal from Gyelpozhing Higher Secondary School (Karma Tenzin), my present principal (Shaker Dalhal), Lopen Pema Rinzin, Sir Kezang Dorji, Madam Sonam Zangmo, Madam Tshering Choki and to other teachers and staff who have supported me during my difficult time.

Second to my Aku (my father’s brother) for helping us and giving me the chance to learn the importance of families to one self.

Third would be to all my beloved friends who accompanied me during times of distress.

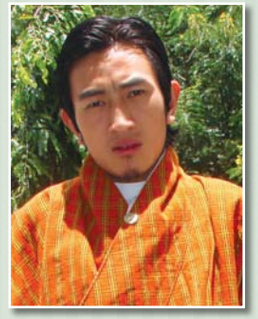
I just want to wish that no one would ever suffer the things that I have been through and my pain to befall on others.

My humble advice to my colleagues is to be always responsible and to fight for their own rights. Otherwise people will feel sorry for you and you would soon realize that regret is the last note of music to you.

Even if things don’t happen the way we expected them to be, don’t be disheartened or give up. One who continues to advance will succeed in the end.

As they used to say, “Where there is a wheel, there is a way”.

THE INNER VOICE OF AN UNHEARD SOUL



Thinley Dorji
1st Batch

Society loves the story of an overachiever. Whether it’s an exciting tale of a billionaire from rags to riches or a magical run from a Cinderella play, mankind has always been fascinated by the concept of an individual overcoming supposedly impossible circumstance to achieve success.

However for me, I have always found the term “overachieving” to be inaccurate when applied to people who prevailed under unfavorable conditions.

When a person has been endowed with natural abilities and talents and choose to do the work necessary to become successful, is it really proper to label this person as an overachiever? Or is it simply a matter for this person to do what we as people are inherently called to do so?

My goal has always been to put my best effort in every aspect of my life not because I want to be an overachiever but because I feel that it is what is required of me. While I was raised in a low-income family that would make me feel disadvantaged, I can’t help but be reminded of my dad’s old axiom; there are no excuses.

My parent’s struggle with the hardships in our life has helped me shaped my aspirations and allowed me to become the person that I am today. I have no regrets though and I wouldn’t change a thing.

My parents faced so many struggles and neither of them attended college. I was the only one of the three siblings that had the chance to attend high school.

Sadly, my mom was caught in a net of illness and bid an early farewell from this planet. After which we burnt thousands of butter lamps with monks chanting in prayers.

My dad was heart broken, struggling alone in the garden to thrive under the scorching heat of the sun and torrential rain. We might have been suffering financially but my brothers and I were never aware of it. My dad worked so hard to ensure that our every basic need is met and more.

I was raised in a home of love and encouragement, something that I cannot overlook the importance it gave in my life. My supportive environment helped shape my philosophy to deal with various issues as I grow older until I completed my higher secondary school.

Our finances took a swift turn to worse when my father became older and older. To say that we must have persevered would be an exaggeration.

Sure I have had a few obstacles thrown in my way but in my opinion the key to happiness lies in distinguishing the things on what a person could and could not control.

Does coming from a small village and a family financially disadvantaged mean that certain dreams are more difficult to achieve absolutely?

However, the most beautiful thing in our country is that the people are blessed to have such a farsighted, generous, and selfless king, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Although I was born into a family that never had so much money, I have been fortunate to be granted a Trongsa Penlop Scholarship. It is an opportunity that I am very thankful for and was greatly benefited from it.

I am filled with the desire to continue my education and was mesmerized by the reality of receiving a scholarship from the throne of His Majesty to pursue my study in Thailand for four years. It was a dream come true for me and I thank God for this blessing.

It has been three years and 11 months since I joined Rangsit University currently pursuing my Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering. I must say that the program is diverse with students from different nationality.

The course content is very rich and grounded on analytical and practical skills on issues at local, national and global scale with emphasis on learning from a comparative perspective. I need this knowledge to enhance my ability in many areas and I am glad to be pursuing this course.

I would like to humbly thank His Majesty the King and the President of Rangsit University for granting me this scholarship and giving me the chance to be in a diverse and positively challenging environment.

Now I would like to take a vow with God as my witness that I will never forget this benevolent opportunity. This will be embedded in the abyss of my heart in order to serve my parents, Tsa-Wa-Sum (Triple Gem) and finally myself with utmost dedication and commitment while our national flag waves high above the sky with a slogan Pelden Drukpa.



Rinchen Choden
4th Batch

THE BREATH-TAKING EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE

For the past years, I heard many people pursuing further studies after receiving the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship. I also heard about Rangsit University, the university in Thailand where my King was awarded a doctoral degree.

There were so many interesting stories about this scholarship and the immense support given to the students by our beloved King and the President of Rangsit University, Dr. Arthit Ourairat.

After completing my three years of service in one of the remotest schools, I was transferred to Wangdue Lower Secondary School in Wangdue Dzongkhag (District). Although this is an urban school located in a proper Dzongkhag, it does not mean that all modern amenities are available here.

The school does not have an internet connection so I was not even able to access the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) website. It would only be once in a blue moon when I could surf the internet at a nearby internet café.

After a few months of working in this school and while in the midst of a tight teaching schedule, my brother called from Thimphu (Capital of Bhutan) informing me about the announcement of scholarship for teachers in the RCSC website. He immediately asked me to send my resume and documents to apply.

After a week, it was with great surprise that I came to know I was one of the short-listed candidates based on my education and teaching experience to report for an interview the next day.

After school I packed my bags and remember to bring with me my

three unpublished researches I have done in the past three years of my teaching.

I began mentally preparing for the interview as well as reading important documents and updating myself with current events. Though excited and nervous, it was a relief to know that I was the 12th candidate scheduled for the interview.

After hours sitting in the waiting room with my heart pounding fast, it came for my turn to give my documents to the panel of judges in the RCSC office. It was already 5:00 PM when I entered the hall.

Though tired, I hurried back to school for my regular teaching chores since I don't like to keep my work waiting and my student idle.

So it was a dream come true the day I received a call from my brother who told me, "Rinchen Choden, you made it! You are selected."

As I heard the news, my hands trembled uncontrollably with tears running down my bony cheeks. I reached for my hands and felt the tears on my face. The tears were in fact a sign of gratitude to my King and the President of Rangsit University for the scholarship.

It was with great excitement and happiness to know that the interview process was done on meritorious ground. It was fair and unbiased because the judges consider my hard work and consistency in the teaching field.

The RCSC had criteria which provide lots of privileges to senior teachers and reward them for their hard work. I felt I did not deserve to be selected since I had only three years of teaching experience compared to other colleagues who have more.

I remember what John Ruskin has said, 'The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for but what he becomes by it'. It is my first time to go abroad and it elevated me to the next level in my personal and professional life.

I still vividly recall the kind words from my beloved King on the eve of our departure together with other seventeen recipients. He encouraged us to learn from every experience and it has become my ultimate goal during my life here in Bangkok.

Now I felt better equipped professionally with the skills and knowledge I learned and understand more what it means to be a teacher in the eyes of the small and innocent children in my school.

The greatest aspect of my professional training is to learn to lead a life less for myself and more for my students. My professors in this university are exemplary role models for me as a teacher.

I realized that it was not by chance that I became a teacher but it was my choice because I love being a teacher and I am proud to be a social worker.

Having attended various subjects at Rangsit University as part of my studies, I felt more in love with my profession as evident of me missing my school, the classroom, textbooks, and my students.

I remember the innocent faces of my small students, staring at me blankly with a big question mark on their faces when they do not understand the lesson, smiling or giggling, discussing and anticipating the next classroom activity.

The endless talk with fellow colleagues at my school about our students during our free time is also a valid proof of our dedication to our

calling. Now I felt more loving, caring and guiding my students to be better individuals.

I realized I was truly in love with my profession after coming here. I also felt proud as a Bhutanese because of my beloved king. Whenever and where ever I go I never failed to mention that I came from Bhutan and my king's name is Jigme.

The big difference in staying here is that 'my country' and 'my king' became my major identity which is somewhat different if I were in Bhutan.

In Bhutan my name is my identity and it was perceive in an individualistic way. But staying here has given me a stronger sense of belongingness to my country.

In Bhutan I remember missing my parents and family but once in Thailand, I started to miss more of my country, the small hills and the snowy mountains, the fresh blowing wind, lush greenery and the rivers flowing by.

Of all that I missed most is my Kira, Tego and Wanjue (my national costume). Every time I wear a skirt and shirt in class, I never forget to remember myself back home how beautiful I used to look at in front of the mirror before going to school.

Another thing I was proud of is my country's philosophy of 'Gross National Happiness' (GNH). I have proudly presented this topic twice in class in front of my classmates. I have learnt so many things about GNH after coming to Thailand and felt I had been very ignorant while I was in Bhutan.

There were many lessons from which Bhutanese might learn from the Thai people. Of all the things I like most is the queuing sense among them. Every customer service was carried out efficiently because of a strong sense of queuing.

I saw people making a line in front of an ATM machine, canteen, bank, hospital, bus station, everywhere and even while visiting the rest room.

When people have this sense of order, I felt that more than half of the country's corruption is eradicated. The people are soft spoken and don't have much of the noise pollution.

I like the driving sense of Thai as they try to avoid honking as much as possible. They are far more polite and give way to pedestrians first without rushing.

It touches ones heart to see the Thai's love and dedication towards their king is similar to my country. Though being a democratic country for many years now, their king has a special place in the hearts of every citizen. Similarly my king had been in the hearts of Bhutanese people from generation to generation and it will be there for many years to come.

My enriching experience and deep realization of my stay in Thailand was owed to the two most important people in my life which is my King and the President of Rangsit University.

I know that these experiences will become a significant part of my life because it has transformed me to a new and better person.

Today I am a better human being, a better citizen, a better student, a better sister to my siblings, a better daughter and a better teacher to my students with more humane values ingrained with new experiences and exposure that I will always cherished.



Tashi Rabdhen
2nd Batch

A NEW LIFE JOURNEY

"Good morning ladies and gentleman. This is Captain Chentso and welcome aboard Druk Air Flight KB130 to Bangkok. The local time is 9:45 AM and the estimated flying time will be approximately 4 hours and 15 minutes..."

It was mid-summer evening with sky enveloped in grayish cloud while the sun sets and the night ready to fall. Birds hover around and the flapping of prayer flags and swaying clothes could be heard as the cool breeze blew. Vehicles can be seen rushing back and forth from their daily chores and it was indeed a pleasant evening.

As the clock strikes six, it was daily routine for everyone to queue up the water tap. People would rush as fast as they can to get in line. The sound of empty jars dropping; clashing, footsteps coming by as well as people washing their plates and mugs could be heard. I can hear a child calling 'Ama, Ree Shekpa La, Ree Dokpey Odo' (calling a mother to get some water) as people queuing up are busy chattering.

It was barely two days before the announcement of result for the class 12 standard. I was alone in our room sitting on a folding chair with remote control on my left hand while watching BBS (Bhutan Broadcasting Service) news. My uncle was on his daily task and my aunt was busy weaving cloth in another room.

My mind was full of tension not knowing what my future would be. I was altogether agitated, nervous, and for some time could not think clearly. I simply sat there with my eyes stared blankly on the television screen looking aimlessly.

Shortly thereafter I saw that the news was over by now. Slowly I leaned back, folded my arms, looked up the ceiling and silently muttered, "Please God, I need your help. Help me please."

It could have been an answer to my prayer because next day I got a surprise call from an unknown number around 10:00 AM. The man asked for personal information without even giving me the chance to inquire why. He told me to visit the Zimpoen's Office (HM Secretariat) immediately.

Without any hesitation, I headed to the office and was interviewed by one of the lady officers, which I came to know later as the coordinator of Trongsa Penlop Scholarship.

I was bit nervous, stressed and worried. My interview took only a few minutes and then I was asked to leave.

The hours turned into days and the days into weeks. I was anxious and don't seem to know what to do next.

Then on the morning of May 11th while sitting by the window, gazing outside with coffee in my hands, I received a call.

Me: "La" (respectfully means 'Yes' in Bhutanese language)

Unknown: Is this Mr. Tashi Rabdhen?

Me: Yeah.

Unknown: Ok, I'm from Zimpoen Office and we will be sending you to Bangkok soon for further study. We don't have much time so make your self ready. Do you have anything to say?

Me: Umm... No la but when are we leaving la?

Unknown: On the 23rd of May and if possible, we may be moving before that. So get yourself ready.

Me: Las la. Thank you.

Oh! That was the happiest moment of my life. I was so excited, or shall I say, over excited. I was on top of the world I didn't even remember what I did during those moments.

By the time I came to my senses, I had burns on my feet. My cup was empty with the coffee spilled on the floor.

I immediately checked the day of departure and it was Saturday. And I realized I got only 12 days to prepare myself.

Since then I noticed that every minute felt like days and every hour like months. It seemed like a year has passed when in fact it was just nine days. My visa and other related documents were ready.

I also met with members of my family and informed them about my further study. They were all too pleased. My dad advised me and I accepted everything without hesitation as my heart was full of joy.

Then the day of our departure came.

On the morning of May 23rd before I had breakfast, I went to the altar and prayed. "Yar Kencho Sum, Datoo Tsen Tsey, Thujee Zekpa Dang Yea Zhin Du, Daley Far Yang Chap Zey Di Kadrin Chang Nang Zer Zhu Ni Enn La". (Oh God, you have been guiding me since then and I have only you to help and guide me. I'm always thankful for your kind help).

My breakfast was so fast it took barely a minute to finish them. Then after my parting words to my aunt and uncle, I hurriedly carried my bag and moved on.

That moment was a bit sad leaving them all behind. I almost cried but then I realized it wasn't a good sign. I just waved to them and left.

Within an hour I met with others and we reached Paro International Airport. I was glad seeing it for the first time. We checked in all our luggage and ourselves afterwards.

It was 9:40 AM and we will depart at 9:45 AM. Most of the passengers in the waiting area were busy making calls. I took my China Q380 phone and made

a final call to my parents. Minutes later, our departure was announced and all of us went aboard.

I was seated at 16A. At first I didn't know where it was and somebody has to help me look for it. I placed my luggage in the overhead compartment, took my seat and fastened my seatbelt.

I was altogether nervous, anxious and afraid. Being my first time, I seem to see the window as too small and I felt suffocated. I was more tensed.

I looked around and people where busy taking their seats, chattering and laughing. But it gave me no peace. "Oye, Chab Sang Rey Gona Ophey Yotpee No" (if you need a restroom it's over there), my seatmate told me. I nodded with a fake smile.

My heart beats faster and it feels like it's going to explode any moment. I took a long deep breath as the captain made an announcement.

"Good morning ladies and gentleman. This is Captain Chentso and welcome aboard Druk Air Flight KB130 to Bangkok. The local time is 9:45 AM and the estimated flying time will be approximately 4 hours and 15 minutes via Calcutta. We will be staying at Calcutta for 30 minutes".

I could not pay attention at all and just looked out of the window. I saw the plane moving and was ready to take off. The engines roared, wings flapped and it started to traverse fast the runway.

At first I felt like I'm riding on a bus but as soon as the plane took off, I have to hold tightly to my friend's arm. He looked at me and smiled. My vision became blurred as tears started flowing down my eyes. I didn't know what was happening as everything was a mixture of fear and joy.

As the plane ascends higher, I could see the miniature houses beneath us appearing smaller and smaller and so was the mountain. Suddenly, I could see so many places at the same time.

At that wonderful moment I remembered something from my high school days. "Opportunity is often difficult to recognize. We usually expect it to beckon us with beepers and billboards", said William Arthur Ward.

I thought to myself that now is the opportunity to fulfill my dream.

You see, I used to climb on top of a mountain and see the places around me. I wonder how it would look like to see them from the top. I believed that if that moment comes, my dreams will be fulfilled.

Then it was cloudy outside and I could no longer see anything beneath us. After flying for sometime, I could no longer feel anything. The plane travels smoothly and I felt relaxed by now.

My heartbeat returned to normal. I leaned back, took a deep breath and fell asleep.



TASHICHHO DZONG, THIMPHU



Jigme Zangmo
1st Batch

MY FIRST TIME AWAY FROM HOME

Leaving for college was my first time away from home and it took a while to get me adjusted to my new surroundings. I needed to become more independent in doing things my own because I didn't have my mom beside me anymore. I often got homesick and wanted to go back.

They say 'experience is a comb which nature gives us when we are bald'. I found this to be very true.

People go through various experiences in their lives. Every experience affects us in some way which could either be good, bad or both. I have experienced so many things and I am still learning.

My first flight experience was actually a dream come true. I have always wanted to ride an airplane.

I was excited and a bit nervous of the procedures in the airport that has kept me awake the whole night before my flight. I could barely close my eyes thinking what it would be like. It was self-torture.

On the day of my flight, I was luckily seated beside the window and I could peep through outside. When the plane accelerated, it was not smooth at all. I could feel the vibration of the plane's engine and my mind was internally screaming.

But the feeling was exhilarating! The sudden gush of excitement overtook everything. My eyes widened and I felt like my body had been torn apart accompanied by acute pain in my ears. I tried to adjust myself any how.

I wanted to scream aloud but my entire body could barely hold itself together. I was amazed that we were flying above the clouds and mountain peaks. It was the best feeling I have ever felt.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have landed at Suvarnabhumi International Airport. The temperature outside is 32 degrees Celsius. Thank you for flying with us."

I just left my homeland.

The moment I stepped out of the plane, I immediately felt the moist air followed by a strange smell of my surrounding. I could hardly breathe. Countless of vehicles swarm into motion and the presence of massive buildings and long bridges made me froze despite the heat I was feeling inside.

I realized it's such a big world out there for me to get lost. Bangkok is a very modern city like any other modern cities in the world. I didn't know where to go and how to get back.

Later on I learned that the language barrier is another Herculean task. Thais pronounce English very differently than anybody else. It's high time that I brush up my Thai-English vocabulary if I am to survive here.

Thais pronounce English words according to Thai way. For example, they will say 'hoten' instead of 'hotel', 'tennit' for 'tennis', 'sa-port' for 'sport' and 'plattic' for 'plastic'. It was hilarious!

But in general, Thais are mild mannered and they speak with a soft pleasing tone. They respect seniority and regard elders as a significant part of the society.

Thai dishes also bear a pungent smell which can either be loved or hated. It's spicy with lots of garlic, grounded peanuts, ginger, sweet sauce, coconut and many more. To my surprise they even prepare curry out of pineapple!

The dishes are never without sugar and it's hard to find salt in Thai curries. Plain rice was the only item I could pick from the menu. At first I felt like I was put in a totally wrong place.

It was also a challenge on how to move for the first time on an escalator. I still remember myself while I walked slowly towards this moving 'stairs'. The closer I reach the escalator, the smaller my steps became.

My heart beat faster, cautiously holding the handrails while stepping on to the moving 'floors' in front of me. Inside I was actually amazed by everything I saw.

Elevator was another thing to handle. Riding it for the first time, I kept looking at the ground as if waiting for something to happen. I was trying to hold tightly and felt like I might hit the bottom anytime soon or something might smash me from above.

But despite everything I have been through, I have learned how to appreciate another culture along with one's own culture. It changed how I viewed others, myself and the world.

I could see an independent personality and responsibility growing inside of me. I could feel the changes in me from a very simple girl to an outgoing independent lady.

Going away from home can be hard at the beginning and the changes are difficult but necessary in order to build a character. I must say that experience really is a great teacher for we become smarter with every new experience.

Though it took sometime to get adjusted to my new surroundings, in time I fell in love with this big wide world. I started liking the things around me.

Spicy, tangy, mouth-watering, delicious - these are the words that best describe Thai cuisines. The food is incredibly delicious. Moreover, I don't mind the heat anymore as I started to enjoy the warm and moist atmosphere of Thailand.

With the passage of time I realized that Thailand, particularly Rangsit University, is a perfect place and a huge playground for all. This place got a thing for me that would make saying goodbye so hard.

Now I want to turn back the hands of time and relive my first moments all over again. Somehow I regret the way I felt in the beginning.

Most of all I felt deeply honored to be one of the recipients of this prestigious scholarship and I am very much thankful to God, my King, my parents, friends, professors and all the people in my life for their blessings, support and love.

Everything that I have now is worth giving back to all of them.

I would like to offer once more my heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty for lighting up my way, for making my dreams come true and for giving me the hope to move on. I am so forever blessed.



Sangay Peldhen
1st Batch

JOURNEY TO EDUCATION

Some moments in life remain a lifetime and are worth sharing.

As I graduate in April this year with a degree in Civil Engineering, I will leave Bangkok with innumerable wonderful experiences.

Today I am a better person because I have been made into a better one by the experiences that shaped me. There are so many beautiful people that have influenced me and it is worth remembering them.

I still vividly recall my journey on the 4th of June 2008. When I reached the airport and saw for the first time an aircraft so close to me, the realization became real that any moment I would be flying to a distant place.

I never dreamt of having the chance to go abroad and leaving the country that I love from the depths of my heart, a country I am proud to be a citizen. Had I not been granted the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship, my world would have been small as I thought it was.

This precious gift from the golden throne has opened my eyes to the realities of the world. This gift is a new dawn rising and a gateway towards building a firm and strong foundation of my life.

I am from Zhemgang well known for its rich biodiversity and yet one of the backward districts in Bhutan. I am the second youngest among four siblings from a humble and poor family.

My parent's live in a small dilapidated house layered with few logs and delicate bamboo pieces. It was strewn with folded banana leaves and floors made from beaten bamboo shrubs.

Since I was a little boy, I remember my parents leading a hand-to-mouth existence. Although they put so much hard work into farming, the income from this small piece of land was never enough to sustain us until the next harvest.

I have witnessed their sufferings, their sweat and tears, the effects of poor harvest and the constant struggle to make ends meet.

To have a simple new dress was also deemed a luxury. So 'old is gold' has always resonated a special meaning to us. Our worn-out clothes would be manually stitched and magically transformed into something new.

I still remember not wearing any shoes on my way to school out of fear of wearing them out because we would not be able to afford a new pair.

Due to the lack of modern facilities and low literacy rate, many parents in our village would not send their children to school and thus were unable to see any possible benefit from doing so.

I was indeed one of the lucky ones because my parents value education so much. Despite their hardships, they see the wisdom in sending me to school.

Taking care of school expenses was also a big deal. My parents run a small piggery backyard together with brewing local beverages in order to provide for my expenses.

The small number of cattle they raised played a significant role in supplementing our income. I would say that they became a living bank for us.

For most years of my life, I spent my days walking along the Mangdechu valley and reside within the territory of my own Dzongkhag (District). But by the end of December 2007 I left my village to go to Gelephu, a small town bordering Indo-Bhutan.

Then on the 3rd of May 2008 I learned that I was one of the successful recipients of Trongsa Penlop Scholarship. I heard the news from Zimpon Wom Nima Tshering who told me I was selected to study in Thailand.

I was in a state of jubilation upon hearing the news. I knew that education is my only chance to achieve my dream and the scholarship will offer a new chapter in my life.

On the day of my departure, my heart was filled with unbounded happiness and joy. It was a day that left a clear footprint in my heart.

During the flight, I was reminded of His Majesty telling us to acquire knowledge and explore new experiences from another world. Deep in my mind I committed myself to live up to his expectation and work with full dedication and loyalty to my country.

Now living in a new environment different in terms of culture, language, food, and many more, I felt renewed in my hope and determination.

Coming to Thailand has given new things in my life apart from the learning I received from my studies. It made me a better human being.

It taught me how to live in a society and to fully experience new things every day. To experience the city at night, to bask on a laid-back beach on holidays, to walk in shopping malls and visit Thai temples, and to travel by sky train. It made my world bigger.

Staying in Thailand has prepared me to face the challenges of my life. It helped me perceive the meaning of life in a broader sense.

I have tried new things necessary in my life while keeping the wisdom I received from the seat of the golden throne in my heart.

I will be graduating in April 2012 and then return to Bhutan. I owe to prove myself that the investment to me won't go in vain. I wish to repay my nation to the fullest of my ability.

I would like to thank His Majesty for giving me the courage to stand on my own feet and to allow me to speak what I feel inside. I thank the President of Rangsit University for providing this scholarship. I thank my mother for bringing me into this world.

I remember the words His Majesty told us during his audience before leaving for Thailand. He said, "This scholarship is not a Soelra (bequest or endownment) but an investment. And I expect more interest from you".

To this I say that I am fully committed to pay the entire interest by working with utmost dedication and loyalty to my country.



Sonam Om
1st Batch

MY KING AND SAVIOUR: THE EPITOME OF ALL KINGLY AND GODLY QUALITIES

Our beloved 4th king once said that the future of Bhutan must be stable, peaceful and prosperous with everyone ruled as citizen under one roof. No one must be harmed, no false speech to anybody, and no one cheats on his neighbor.

Thus everyone must be able to enjoy equally the fruit of the nation's development in the present time with provisions for future generation.

Equipped with Gross National Happiness and the legacy of his father the 4th king, His Majesty has started working brick by brick to fulfill his wishes and to create a remarkable history of Bhutan that will echo from the sky.

And in just a short period of time as Trongsa Penlop (Crown Prince) and eventually as King, His Majesty has done great things like leading the most significant revision to the Indo-Bhutan friendship treaty that further enhance national security and development prospects.

Gaining the trust and support from neighboring countries like Thailand, he has received many scholarship grants for our less fortunate citizens. His Majesty has focused his vision on areas that would make his nation successful.

His Majesty believes that even though Bhutan is a small nation that had its share of challenges in the past, it would face even greater challenges in the future. But he always stressed that every single challenge could be turned into an opportunity if we can plan ahead and work hard.

He also views the two giant nations beside us not as threat but an economic doorstep from which we could learn to have a dynamic economy in our own terms and condition, same as we have done with democracy and modernization.

He believes that building a strong economy is foundation for a sound democracy, for Gross National Happiness to prosper and for peace and prosperity to all Bhutanese now and in the future.

In order to achieve his goals, His Majesty has encouraged every citizen to rise above the challenge, to change their mindset and way of thinking and to work hard so that we could stand on our own feet and be able to compete as equals with other nation.

His Majesty told us that he doesn't have his own personal goals and that he would adopt our own aspirations to be his own and work towards in fulfilling them. This has inspired every youth in Bhutan to have big ambition and hope for our King, our country and our people.

His Majesty added that individual success is tied to the success of our nation and no one succeeds if the nation has failed. He also assured the youth of providing them the ladder to climb in making their dreams and aspirations come true.

His Majesty is there to help every citizen in need to live a better life and to contribute success to the nation. He recently visited many parts of the kingdom to personally meet his people and see their problems and how it could be solved.

He established the Office of Gyalpoi Zimpon (His Majesty's Secretariat) to provide help and support to the people in need. The Regional Office will monitor, evaluate and ensure that the life of the people who receives Kidu (grant assistance) will be improved.

A Gewog Officer (Local Administrative Officer) is trained to help in administering Kidu to the grass roots level. Kidu ranges from providing land to the landless, financial support to the needy and disabled and finding solutions to unfair practices.

His Majesty's scholarships are classified into three categories: Tozey, Trongsa Penlop Scholarship and King's Scholarship. The scholarships provided to many people through the years have produced tears of joy falling like rain and dreams rising like clouds from the hearts of those who fell into despair from far flung villages.

For our beloved King, bad weather, impassable roads and difficult circumstances are not a big deal. He visits everyone where ever they are even during natural calamities. He meets with them to lift their spirit and serve the Tsa-Wa-Sum (Triple Gem).

His Majesty is a source of inspiration to everybody. Everyone looks up to him not as a king but as a god in its human form. He adheres to the 'Duty above Self' principle and work tirelessly for his people and country.

His Majesty's deeds are an epitome of selfless service, wisdom, compassion and leadership that will be felt across many centuries and generation.

My heartfelt prayers are "long live His Majesty and may the Triple Gem bless the Land of Drukpas with peace and prosperity for many eons to come".

The only song that I would sing in every circumstance would be, "Gesar, Gesar, Gesar. Echo from afar, in fondest memory, here or far apart. Thou art always, the Precious Prince of Hearts."



Gopal Thapa
4th Batch

BHUTAN AND HER KING

Amidst the lofty mountain and dancing clouds, a tiny nation stood firmly to the ground under the sweet fragrance of the mighty Himalayas. The country is gifted with the richness of natural resources such as water, forest, and intact mineral resources.

The pristine flora and fauna, unique landscape of swift flowing rivers, splendid valley with glaciers, and magnificent plains interlocked by breathtaking waterfalls, are just some of the panoramic features of this country.

Geographically, this kingdom is bordered to the north by the mighty People's Republic of China and to the south by India. The country is completely intact and lies at almost adjoining edges of the Eurasian and Indian plates. Owing to the intensity of tremors, earthquake is one of the biggest threats to the lives and property of this region.

This country has a very rich cultural heritage unique to the rest of the world. The northern region consists of an arc of the Eastern Himalayan's alpine shrub with meadows reaching up to the mountain peaks and an extremely cold climate at the highest elevation.

Unexploited natural resources, lesser carbon emission, and abundant fresh mineral water are some of the vivid examples of sustainable environmental conservation. The country is so pure, clean, and unpolluted that one feels much closer to heaven.

Can anyone guess the name of this country?

You guessed it right, it's the beautiful but tiny kingdom of Bhutan nestled in the heart of the Eastern Himalaya.

In this wonderful nation lie an equally great monarch, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, 5th in lineage from the Wangchuck Dynasty and the youngest king in the world.

He loves his subjects so much that he declares himself the “People’s King”. In fact, the whole world was astonished when he told his subjects, “I will never rule like a king and I will treat everyone as my own sons and daughters”.

This vital message has grabbed the headlines of most media around the world. World leaders praised his gesture and honor the young king for his selfless thought and wisdom and thus broadened his popularity overnight.

It is normal for the king to be seen mingling with common people, providing assistance to the poor and less fortunate, sharing their happiness and acknowledging their pain and sorrows. In fact, he will be the first person to visit a disaster area.

Bhutan being a mountainous country with dense forest, abundant wild life and uneven terrain, moving from one place to another is a daunting task. But despite the challenges, our king travels to all corners of the country to check on the living conditions of his people.

He became the father to each Bhutanese citizen and everyone feels the same way to him. The king is personally involved in the rebuilding of national structure and people’s property.

He makes sure that everyone is happy because he believes more on happiness rather than material wealth. The Gross National Happiness (GNH) became a major yardstick in the full functioning of his governance in Bhutan.

The king is highly visionary in forging stronger ties with the world and has good relations with India, Thailand, Japan, Britain and many more. Above all, His Majesty has personal link and good relationship with the royal family and the government of Thailand.

The visible advantage of this effort has resulted into many Bhutanese studying in different universities in Thailand as well as businessmen doing business there. A huge number of Bhutanese pour every year into various disciplines to study at Rangsit University under the Trongsa Penlop Scholarships.

This scholarship program was championed by the king himself where students come from the poorest of the poor, the needy and under privileged, or from parents who don’t have the means to send their children to study.

All of this is possible because of His Majesty’s good relations with the people of Thailand particularly with the President of Rangsit University, Dr. Arthit Ourairat.

Finally, I would like to humbly thank His Majesty for his selfless contribution to our country and to pray for his long life and good health.



Babita Bhujel
4th Batch

DEDICATION TO MY KING

Bhutanese are so blessed to have King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck as the visionary guardian who believes that education is the backbone of our country and people as its most important resource.

The importance of education was reiterated in His Majesty's address during the 3rd convocation ceremony of the Royal University of Bhutan in 2009. He said,

"I am a firm believer that if there is one word that will stand out above all other words to describe our country's amazing journey to modernization over the last few decades - it is education. Our institutions, our leaders of today, all of us including me, are proud products of the Bhutanese education system".

Education which originates from the Latin word 'educare' meaning 'to bring up' and 'ducere' to lead means it is a powerful tool that will bring us forward. It releases the great future of our people and leads Bhutan to the path of prosperity.

I know that my life hasn't reached its peak and believed that I still have "miles to go before I sleep", a short phrase from Robert Frost's poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening'. It became true when I was granted the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship in 2011.

It wasn't easy for me to reach this point as I have to take very difficult steps in climbing the ladder of my life. Though I became a teacher after my tenth grade, I still have to burn the midnight lamp and continue my work tirelessly.

I was often encouraged by Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem 'Ulysses':

How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use...
And this gray spirit yearning in desire
To follow knowledge like a sinking star.

There were times I felt that climbing even one more step maybe was not meant for me. But somehow I remember that the greatest pleasure in life is in doing what people say you cannot do plus the words of inspiration from His Majesty would put me back to life.

Being one of the recipients of this scholarship, I must strive hard because I know that the price of success is dedication and hard work. My teacher many years ago advised me to always keep a portrait of the most beloved person in my life so that I would always be directed to the noble path.

To this I would declare that His Majesty has been the most important portrait in my life. With his inspiration and guidance, I know I can realize my dreams. I may walk slowly but never would I walk backwards.

I reached this stage because of his support so I will work selflessly to achieve my best performance and would dedicate my life to the service of my countrymen.

I would like to pay my respect and eternal gratitude to His Majesty with all my heart for his love and compassion towards a child like me.



Sonam Tshering
4th Batch

MY BIRTHDAY WISHES

No amount of words can describe our People's King.

His gentle nature, charming smile and kind gesture would always bring the warmth of the sun to the loyal citizens of the Land of the Thunder Dragon.

The youth of today also feels the inspiration from our loving ruler who reigns supreme in the golden throne and the constitution.

His long list of accomplishments in serving his people makes one feel so blessed for having been ruled by such a gracious human being.

There are countless of times that His Majesty has showered his love and compassion to his people in the spirit of equality and justice.

So I would like to take this opportunity to wish him a long and happy life as he celebrates his 32nd birth anniversary. There can never be a most opportune time to offer my humble wishes and gratitude.

I still remember His Majesty's special day on the dawn of 21st of February. It was a blissful moment that started with our national anthem.

I was immensely happy celebrating his birth anniversary at Rangsit University as every one of us was filled with an overwhelming love and respect as we offer Thridar (scarf offering) to the portrait of His Majesty.

When I heard the playing of our national anthem, we stood as proud Bhutanese under the reign of Wangchuck dynasty and prayed for His Majesty's long life.

Our Bhutanese friends also presented an array of cultural programs and amazing activities to mark the special day.

Meanwhile, the celebration in Bhutan at Chang Lingmithang was graced by his Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Uygen Wangchuck in the husk of dried willow leaves giggling at the tickle and shyness of the sun above.

In the sparkling blue turf was Lyonpo Yeshi Zimba speaking before the audience to celebrate this most awaited day.

The kindness surfed through Bhutanese ears when Lyonpo spoke of the promise our country is heading to and the hope of what we could achieve. The way to Gross National Happiness is in concentrating on the goods we have achieved and finding solution to areas where we went wrong.

The intricate patterns of our Gho and Kira (national costumes) displayed while dancing together reflected our strength of union. The boys gave the blur base of the traditional Zhungdra and Boedra song while girls shriveled through the charm of the mob in a perfect state of cultural dignity.

I am very fortunate to receive the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship which I never expected. I respectfully thank His Majesty for giving me such a wonderful chance to bring great changes into my life.

The most inspiring words of wisdom happened during an audience with His Majesty on January 5, 2012 at Tashichheodzong when he said, "You sleep on the bed that you make".

It was a simple message but with a deep meaning that brought inspiration to everybody during that time.

The virtue that we aspire, the challenges that we face, and the commitment to do what is right with a firm conviction that things will ultimately turn into a reality. I charmed these words to be worthy lessons in my life.

I can not thank His Majesty enough for I would never have met such a kind-hearted king if I were not born in this country.

Thank you for your generosity and the words of encouragement to us to become better persons.

Happy birthday to my dear king. Long live our People's King.



Sonam Om
1st Batch

THE CHOSEN SON

When I was a little girl, my grandmother used to tell us stories of great kings, their noble deeds, and the battles that they have fought to protect our kingdom.

There is one story that I still remember about King Gyalchen Drimey Kundhen which I will tell you about today.

It was the story of a father blessed with many sons and daughters, vast wealth, and precious 'norbus' (gem) that held magical powers.

The most special norbu was Gyeldhun Puenjom, a jewel that can fulfill all wishes.

The father loved his children so much and nurtured them so that they would become great persons some day. He provided everything that they could wish for but he was still not satisfied.

So one day he decided to give each of his children a precious norbu.

A sense of fear came to him as he knew that granting his children powers would also entail responsibility. He did not give his children the most precious norbu as he felt they have not come of age yet.

However, he kept giving them smaller norbus that could grant a few wishes. And after seeing his children grew into more responsible adults in handling their precious norbus, he decided to give them bigger ones that could grant even greater wishes.

Then one day the father chose his wisest and most capable son to guide his siblings with the last and most precious norbu - Gyeldhun Puenjom. This precious norbus was handed down to him by his ancestors who fought bravely and tirelessly to bring good from a gift so great.

The chosen son was given all the necessary education and training from highly learned people inside and outside the country. In due time, this son showed unimaginable progress in his capability to guide his brothers and sisters.

His capabilities were not only recognized within the country but around the globe. He was able to earn the respect and admiration of people from all ages, status, and race.

It was known that the father supported endlessly the well-being of his children and had shown them the true lessons of selflessness, compassion and true happiness.

So at first the children felt there could be no else better suited to hold the most precious norbus than their father and that he should keep it for safe-keeping.

However the father felt the time has come for his children to work together to protect the norbu from harm and make the right choices.

This story is the same in Bhutan where we have a father who wanted our wishes fulfilled and now handed over the kingdom to his chosen son.

That chosen son was born on the 21st of February 1980 and his name is Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the torchbearer who will lead his people to greatness.

He received the norbu from his father, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who worked with selfless compassion and generosity to hand over a safe, peaceful, and happy nation to the Bhutanese people.

His father has protected us from harm and gave Bhutan the Gross National Happiness, decentralization, and the constitution.

Like the selfless King Gyalchen Drimey Kundhen before him, who sacrificed his children and his own body for his people, he also sacrificed his power for his people.

In 2005, when the 4th king stepped down from his throne, he had full confidence to the young and dynamic Crown Prince Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Despite his young age, he has put duty above self, shown compassion, love for country and his people, and vision for a greater Bhutan.

Our former kings have protected our country for the past centuries with their full dedication and provided the Bhutanese people with security, tranquility, and happiness.

So the year 2008 was historic for us as we pay tribute to the coronation of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the 5th king of the Wangchuck dynasty.

Now looking into the future, it seemed everything just happened yesterday where I can still remember myself in my village dreaming other people's dream.

It wasn't because I didn't want to have a dream of my own. It was just because being an orphan I was scared to have one.

Today I am in a renowned university to quench my thirst for knowledge and to begin to dream again.

I am here with fellow friends whose dreams were realized when His Majesty granted us the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship.

Most of us here were from shattered homes and families, who had no hope and were scared to dream.

Today I am no longer scared to dream and not having my own dream.

I will forever be grateful to my King for his kindness and compassion to children like me, children who could not have escaped from the vicious cycle of poverty without His Majesty's love for the less fortunate.



Sonam Zangmo
1st Batch

THE ALARM CLOCK OF MY LIFE

It was a great transition of my life. I was thinking whether I have fully become an adult in my completion of studies as I can hear my own 'alarm clock' ringing to me.

So I was excited to receive the notification letter informing me as one of the recipients of the first batch of Trongsa Penlop Scholarship.

Coming from a poor family, I wouldn't have imagined being in this stage of my life without the kindness shown by the King of Bhutan and the President of Rangsit University.

Their generosity has made a profound impact to my life and I am truly grateful to it.

Now nearing completion of my studies in Thailand, I can hear again the sound of my internal bells reminding me of greater responsibilities ahead.

This time the sound is clearer indicating the direction where my next step would be.

A few years ago I was still vague on which way to go but this great opportunity has enriched me with vast knowledge that I vowed to strive hard for the betterment of the world I live in.

I experience special privileges and happiness during my stay in Thailand that when my internal clock rang, I paid immediate attention to it.

This I regard as marking my first major transition to adulthood.

Thus I pay attention to every buzz of my alarm because with each thump, I am blessed with more maturity and wisdom.

I don't anymore roll-over and whack the snooze button of my alarm clock to reset for another time. I could clearly feel the difference between myself now and four years ago.

I am a wiser and better person this time around.

I feel the need to seek for wisdom, courage and determination to overcome life's challenges and grasp opportunities.

It gives me moral compass to look further to an extraordinary life that is free of regret and full of satisfaction.

Although I have a lot more to achieve but I feel contended that my life is now focus on a brighter path of tomorrow.

Less than a year after hearing this familiar ring, I decided to prepare for a bolder life ahead of me and what would be my life's work.

Time is running forward without delay so I must not pause. I will learn year after year with great pleasure.

Receiving this scholarship has motivated me, broadened my knowledge, and made me more confident of myself.

I look forward to utilize my knowledge and to serve as hard working, loyal, and dedicated citizen of country and my king with every alarm of my clock.

I thank everyone for the confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals.

My alarm clock has cleansed my mind, improved my reasoning power, and strengthened my courage.

The alarm clock of my life was a blessing from my King and the President of Rangsit University.

They are the greatest of all and will be forever greatest in my life.



Sangay Zangmo
1st Batch

CHANGES IN MY LIFE

When I return to my hometown, the memories I gained from my experience here will overwhelm me and make me sad. The Bhutanese people are lucky to have such a generous king who cares for his people more than his own life.

Our King has given priority to educating the youth since he believes that education is the way to make people's life easy and happy thus adding value to Gross National Happiness.

His Majesty has provided various scholarships to privileged students around the country and I am happy to be one of them. This precious and most valuable gift would bring beautiful changes into my life.

My degree program gave me the light to see a better world and I hope it will fulfill all my dreams and aspirations. I am in a better position to take on the challenges of my life because of His Majesty's noble vision.

With this scholarship, I had the opportunity to pursue my degree in one of the renowned universities in Thailand, Rangsit University.

Coming from a remote place in my country, this great feeling of change was like being in a movie 'Alice in Wonderland'.

I experience life in a modern world totally different from where I came from. From the moment I arrived in this country until now, I have been learning new things every day.

One classic example is on how to operate a computer for the first time in my life.

I was shivering with the thought of ruining it just by pressing the wrong keys! Gradually I have learned to use it and now serve a very useful purpose in my life.

I have also met various people and have been to different places like the sea which I have not even heard of before. I also got a chance to try on different kinds of dresses – from fancy to classical – things I have never done as well.

Now I am about to complete my Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and I feel proud of myself that I would be able to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of my mother who supported me as a single parent.

Many people in my village also have high hopes for me and they look up to me as a good example for their growing children. So I have this great responsibility to be a role model to the innocent loving people of my village.

I would like to express my humble gratitude to His Majesty for awarding me the Trongsa Penlop Scholarship and for the knowledge I have gained from my studies which will provide me a brighter future.

I would like also to personally thank Dr. Arthit Ourairat for his generous support and vision and to all 'Zimpoens' (His Majesty Secretariats) for their tireless support at all times.

I really enjoyed the warmth of their easy and amiable disposition.



Pema Kota
4th Batch

THE ROYAL WEDDING

The announcement of His Majesty's marriage to Gyeltsuen Jetsun Pema is undoubtedly a historical event in our country's history.

The simple purity of the King's acknowledgement of his future bride coupled with great wishes to his father and the people of Bhutan rang with total sincerity.

The beautiful Royal Wedding radiates in a gorgeous autumn at His Majesty's precious kingdom will be in the hearts of people forever.

Our Queen is really beautiful and could describe her as a perfect incarnation of 'Jetsum Drolma' (Tara, the Goddess Mother).

The royal wedding culminated to a prosperous and happy celebration on this part of the planet.

People from all walks of life remain joyous and inspired by the solemnity of this very special event.

I felt that our beloved King has taken one of the greatest decisions to support the well being of his people in Bhutan.

People celebrated the Royal Wedding as historical moment with his subjects far and wide contented. Our joys and gladness are infinite like the stars shining in the sky.

May the Royal Couple be blessed with good health, happiness, and refuge from the storms of life.

May their love for each other grow stronger with each passing day.

May their future be wonderful than anyone could ever dreamed possible.

May the peace and harmony of this kingdom exist for many years to come.

An ocean sings with the tide and the people sing far and wide.

When the land is green and the skies are blue, a joy shared is multiplied and sorrows shared are halved.

I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations again to the Royal Couple on their happy and joyous marriage.



Tshering Dekar
4th Batch

TEACHERS IN THE EYES OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING

I stood beside the window watching tiny droplets of rain added to the puddle. “I am a better teacher now”, I muttered.

I could certainly identify myself with the water for I have witnessed growth in me during my stay here at Rangsit University.

Just a year ago, I was just your typical teacher wishing to have her dreams come true of showering the best of knowledge to her students.

I have always believed that finishing my studies would fulfill my dreams. Thus the day it happened has opened the path to the threshold of my life.

My learning experience has increased my self-confidence which seemed so farfetched sometime ago.

All of this was possible because of the vision of our beloved King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

If not for His Majesty’s scholarship program, I and many teachers like me, would still be groping in the dark to realize our dreams of a more educated Bhutan.

One of the major driving forces behind His Majesty’s vision has always been the youth as hope of the future of Bhutan.

Our forefathers had put their best efforts in the advancement of education as our 4th King once said, “The teachers are my army, fighting not in war but against illiteracy.”

Realizing that the quality of Bhutan’s future citizen depends on the teachers who would mould them into social beings, His Majesty emphasized the importance of upgrading the teachers both academically and professionally.

So here I am among the privileged ones selected for the fourth batch of this program toiling with utmost dedication to serve our beloved king and my country.

When I complete this program, I expect to become a better educator.

I believe that the quality of education received by our youth depends greatly on the attitude of teachers toward their profession.

Investing on educators with a positive attitude is an invaluable asset because it will eventually have positive ripple effects into the system in the future.

Today I am proud to say that the teachers studying in this program are all committed, hardworking and would acquire the best out of their experiences to serve our country wholeheartedly.

As I leaned over the veranda while watching the tiny droplets of water falling into the puddle again, I couldn't help feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude to my King.

If it hadn't been for his great vision, I wouldn't have gained these new experiences.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the faculty members of this university for designing and delivering an excellent program.

Having weighed the fruitfulness of the efforts taken by His Majesty together with the President of Rangsit University, I prayed that this program will continue for a long time.

It has helped me realized my dreams and provided me with insights on becoming a better educator.

The continuity of this program is a moral incentive to many teachers back home.



Tashi Wangmo
2nd Batch

WHY I LOVE THAILAND

Thailand is a truly amazing country with so many things to do. The people are friendly, the food is great, and the weather is awesome. This place is a great value for money.

Thailand is the Land of Smiles. Thais are easy to deal with and will be all smiles to you when you try to speak to them in their language.

When I first came here, I found out that their language is very tough. I knew only of Sawatdee Kha (Hello) and Kob Khun Kha (Thank You) from watching the Bhutanese movie "Sawatdee Khrub".

Communication in Thai is needed because Thais hardly speak English and learning their language eventually proved to be easy, polite and fun.

Thais are generally soft spoken and polite with occasional assortment of bad nuts. They are very helpful even with the language barrier and would always give their warmest, friendliest smile that would make one feel so secure staying in a foreign land.

Thais are also very innocent and gentle. Men sometimes seemed feminine which is not just accepted but also encouraged. They are very active, hard working, creative and loyal.

I enjoy eating Thai foods because they are delicious and healthy. Tom Yum Kai (Hot and Sour Chicken Soup) and Khao Phad Kai (Chicken Fried Rice) are two of my favorites.

Pattaya is also a place that I like a lot because it's a good place to relax with your friends, family and loved ones.

The fantastic and amazing views of the sand, sun and lots of fun make Pattaya one of the most popular destinations for visitors in Thailand.

There are many good reasons why you should come here.

Thailand's bustling capital of Bangkok is very colorful, challenging and a wake-up call to ones senses.

I am most excited to immerse myself in their culture, meet new people from around the world, and travel and explore in the Land of Smiles.

More importantly, this is a good place to learn new things, enjoy modern facilities and experience a good educational system.



Deki
1ST Batch

TWO TPS ALUMNI TOPPED THE RCSC'S EXAM IN 2012

Every year, the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) holds a nationwide exam in Bhutan to select 100 successful candidates that will undergo a one-year intensive training in their area of expertise.

This year, two TPS alumni from the 1st batch have made it to this prestigious list from among 1,800 examinees.

The first one is Ms. Deki who studied International Business at Rangsit University International College. She graduated in 2011 with 1st Class Honors and was ranked 21st in the exam.

The second one is Mr. Tendri Gyeltshen who studied the same program with Ms. Deki. He also graduated in 2011 with 1st Class Honors and was ranked 7th in the exam.

Ms. Deki, from the Chukha district, discusses the feeling of being selected as one of the successful candidates and her thoughts about Rangsit University and her life. Currently, she is taking a Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Management (PGDFM) at the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) in Thimphu, Bhutan.

What did you feel after graduating from Rangsit University?
I think everybody feels the same way after finishing their studies. We worked so hard for the past four years so that we can graduate successfully. Finally we are able to achieve something and I felt very happy. You see, it is not just about graduating but also being able to acquire knowledge from different sources.

What were your preparations for this exam including problems that you encountered?
Preparation for the exam happens together with our day-to-day activities. It starts from keeping abreast with current events and getting information on relevant issues affecting our country and the world.

The problems I faced are more on the limited resources available and the difficulty of getting the information. The high service charge from using an internet connection coupled with a limited time for preparation also posed a great challenge.

What did you feel after knowing the exam results?
My feeling was pretty great as I have finally able to take one step further. Initially after graduation, I felt relieved but at the same time I was worried on how I would be able to compete with a thousand other candidates vying for a limited seat. So finally having gone through the examination and luckily being selected is an awesome feeling.

Tell us something about Rangsit University.
Based on my experience, I would say that Rangsit University is one of those institutions that offer various knowledge and skills to people from different walks of life. The facilities are excellent and the diversity in student population is a great thing.

What have you gained from your study that you think you didn't have before?

I have gained so many things from Rangsit University. To name a few:

• Knowledge in my field of specialization that came from competent lecturers

• Getting to know the different culture from the diverse background of students in the campus

• Being able to develop or think in a broader way

How do you compare Rangsit University with RIM?
The difference between Rangsit University and the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) is not about academic but mainly on the activities. At RIM we are trained on just one particular field of study (Financial Management) and we focus ourselves on the issues affecting our country in particular.

Do you have anything more to add?
I personally would like to thank the President of Rangsit University and all the faculty and staff for their full support and love during my stay there. It is impossible for me to get to where I am right now without them.

Finally, I sincerely would like to thank everybody and I vowed to do my best in order to fulfill the purpose of why I was selected for this scholarship.



Tendri Gyeltshen
1ST Batch

Mr. Tendri Gyeltshen is currently taking a Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Management (PGDFM) at the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) in Simtokha Bhutan. Below is his brief recollection of Rangsit University.

On the outskirt of a bustling metropolis lies a gift to humanity, Rangsit University. I can still vividly recall my life at this university where students, professors, supporting staff and people hover around the vast campus.

It is difficult to describe this university in simple terms as numerous activities are happening at the same time. But there is one particular spot that has a special place in me: the small park in front of the main building.

The reason this is of primary importance to me is that this is where you could mostly catch me enjoying my free time relaxing.

I felt I was fortunate to be part of the Rangsit University family.

This university understood the true value of education and creates an environment for excellent learning. I cannot imagine another university that would be better off in this area.

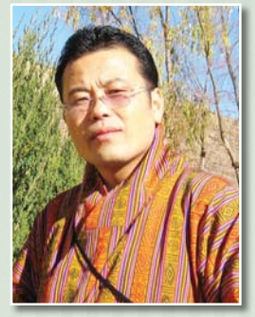
So let me take this opportunity to personally thank the President of Rangsit University, Dr. Arthit Ourairat, as well as all supporting faculty and staff for making my stay a very homely one. Without their invaluable support and assistance, I could not have reached my present status.

Special mention is also in order to all my teachers who were very supportive and encouraging to us.

One thing's for sure, the training I am currently taking at the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) wouldn't be possible without the knowledge and skills I received from Rangsit University.

Finally, let me express my sincerest gratitude to His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck for providing me with this wonderful opportunity and for helping me reach this status in my life.

IMPORTANCE OF TPS MAGAZINE TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE RECIPIENTS OF TPS



Pema Tshering
TPS Coordinator
3RD Batch

The first issue of the Trongsa Penlop Scholarships Annual Alumni Magazine at Rangsit University marks the birth of a new era and is a symbol of great dynamism.

Rangsit University is a place where it molds its students to be the best person that they can be. It is a place that supports building people through excellence with its diverse, diligent and committed faculty members and staff.

The university caters to a diverse international community that promotes respect, fairness and equality at all times where one can freely discover himself and amass a wealth of information for his own growth and development.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the fifth King of Bhutan and to the President of Rangsit University, Dr. Arthit Qurairat, for making this scholarship program a reality.

All of us are deeply humbled to be part of this once in a lifetime opportunity that improve our lives and enhance our knowledge through quality education from different areas.

This magazine is hoped to present the view and perspective of the activities and expectations during our study here at the university. It is an unbreakable thread that will forever binds us to this institution cohesively.

We are very much looking forward to be meeting again in the next issue.



PUNAKHA DZONG

BHUTANESE PROVERBS

TSHAM CHOE SHAIN KHAYBE TAG.
To know one's limitation is the hallmark of a wise person.

THRANG LAPNA ME MI GA. TE THA DUNG NA KHI MI GA EG.
If you tell people the truth, they won't be happy. If you beat a dog with a stick, it won't be happy.

DA CHAB LU MI CHO, THI LU CHO; LOE LAB LU MI CHO, NEN LU CHO
The way the arrow is targeted is more essential than the way it is shot.
(Anyone can shoot but the way it hits matters most).

SHE CHEY MI LU MATHOEN, KHAPA ROE KI BA WONG.
Never reveal everything you know to others as they might become smarter than you.

SEM CHEN TAG GI RE-MO CHEY DANG; GU NAG MI GE RE-MO NANG ING
The stripes of a tiger are on the outside. The stripes (character) of a person are on the inside.

GE RU-WA NHAGI MO CHOE.
The nose doesn't smell its rotting head. (One doesn't recognize its own fault or mistakes).

NAM GAWA THE WEI WOE LU YOE. PHUNG DANG SI YANG THEY NANG YOE.
Fun and pleasure is located below the navel. Dispute and trouble is also located there.

YE SHEY PI DA CHAP SAR MI THOENG. PHOG SAR THOENG.
The arrow of an accomplished master will not be seen once release, only when it hits the target. (One won't see the difficult process but just the end result).

CHAP PHAR KAH CHAP JIL PA CHU KHA RAY.
The rain falls yonder but the drop strikes here. (An indirect remark will hit the target)

CHIG MEIN NEOW CHAM
No financial involvement among relatives creates harmonious relationship.

SERSANG JALAS YONTEN NACHI GA.
A single knowledge is worth more than a hundred kilogram of gold.

AH LU MA NGUEN AHI GIS AOM MI JEANS
If a child does not cry, a mother will not give the milk.

SEM GIS NOE TSE MA BAY. KHA LAN THEON TSE MA LAB.
Don't act whatever comes to mind. Don't say whatever comes to mouth.

DROE MI LU DRIS. THAG RANGI CHOED.
Consult other people. But make decision by yourself.

CHI MA DAG CHUG IS SHES. NANG MA DAG TAM GIS SHES.
Water clears the outside dirt. Talking clears the inside dirt.



ACTIVITY PICTURES

1ST BATCH WITH DR. ARTHIT OURAIRAT, PRESIDENT OF RANGSIT UNIVERSITY DURING ORIENTATION IN JUNE 2008



BHUTANESE EXHIBITION IN 2008





RANGSIT UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE ENGLISH CAMP IN 2008













THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF HON. PRIME MINISTER LYONCHOEN JIGME Y. THINLEY TO RANGSIT UNIVERSITY ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2008



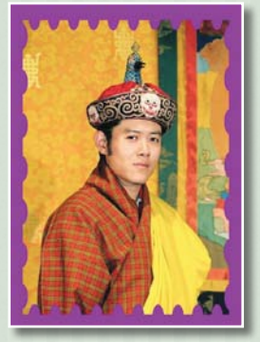


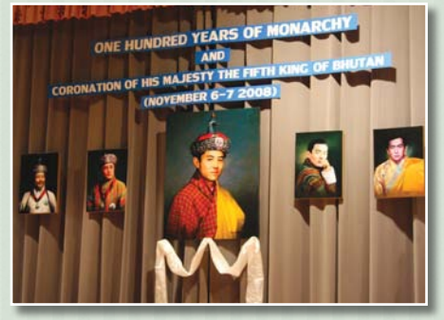






CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MONARCHY AND CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING JIGME NAMGYEL WANGCHUCK ON NOVEMBER 6-7, 2008 AT RANGSIT UNIVERSITY









101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN ON DECEMBER 17, 2008









ENGINEERING STUDENTS DURING STUDY TOUR



ENGINEERING STUDENTS DURING WORKSHOP IN 2009









INTERNATIONAL DAY AT RANGSIT UNIVERSITY IN 2010










HON. THAKUR SINGH POWDEL, MINISTER OF EDUCATION, KINGDOM OF BHUTAN WITH BHUTANESE STUDENTS IN THAILAND AT THE ROYAL BHUTANESE EMBASSY IN 2010




RANGSIT UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE ANNUAL TRIP IN NAKHON NAYOK IN 2010









TPS FOOTBALL TEAM AT RANGSIT UNIVERSITY








RANGSIT UNIVERSITY SPORTS DAY IN NOVEMBER 2010















THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE EDUCATION SECRETARY AUM SANGAY ZAM TO RANGSIT UNIVERSITY ON MAY 21, 2011









INTERNATIONAL DAY AT RANGSIT UNIVERSITY IN 2011











CELEBRATING 32ND BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MAJESTY KING JIGME NAMGYEL WANGCHUCK AT RANGSIT UNIVERSITY ON FEBRUARY 21, 2012





















TRONGSA PENLOP SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS WHILE ATTENDING THE POLITICS CONFERENCE AND DRIGLAM NAMZHA BRIEFING AT THIMPHU, BHUTAN IN DECEMBER 2011



TRIP TO WANGDUEPHODRANG AND PUNAKHA, KINGDOM OF BHUTAN IN DECEMBER 2011

















HIS MAJESTY KING JIGME KHESAR NAMGYEL WANGCHUCK
AND HER MAJESTY QUEEN JETSUN PEMA
GRANTS AUDIENCE TO TPS STUDENT
AT THE ROYAL BHUTANESE EMBASSY IN THAILAND IN AUGUST 2012



COURTESY CALL TO DR. ARTHIT OURAIRAT
BY GRADUATING MASTER DEGREE STUDENTS IN
THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION ON OCTOBER 8, 2012







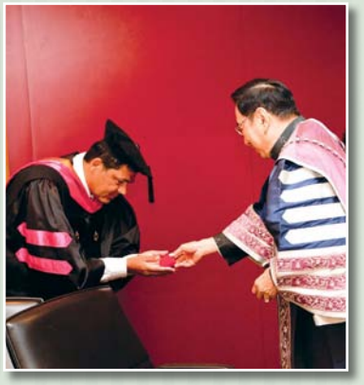




















FRONT COVER DESIGN

The Eight Auspicious Symbols (**Ashtamangala** in Sanskrit) are a group of lucky Buddhist symbols that appear on many Buddhist textiles, objects and paintings.

Each symbol represents an aspect of Buddhist teaching and when they appear together, their powers are multiplied.

The front cover design is a combination of eight lucky signs with slight modification as the Dharma wheel was replaced by the Trongsa Penlop Scholarships (TPS) logo.

The symbolic signs considered auspicious in the Bhutanese culture and tradition are believed to bring good luck and fortune to oneself, family and the nation.



PARASOL (Chattra)
Royalty and Spiritual Power



GOLDEN FISHES (Suvarnamatsya)
Good Fortune, Fertility and Salvation



TREASURE VASE (Kalasha)
Spiritual and Material Abundance



LOTUS (Padma)
Mental and Spiritual Purity



CONCH SHELL (Sankha)
The Fame of Buddha's Teachings



ENDLESS KNOT (Shrivasta)
Infinite Wisdom of the Buddha



VICTORY BANNER (Dhvaja)
Victory of the Buddha's Teachings and Wisdom over Ignorance



WHEEL (Dharmachakra)
The Teachings of the Buddha

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Mr. Somkeit Rungruangviriya

Mr. Rolly Canonoy

Ms. Jansawang Ninjan

Mr. Pema Tshering (TPS Coordinator)

Mr. Dorji Khandu (1st Batch)

Ms. Tashi Wangmo (2nd Batch)

Mr. Kaylzang Tshering Tashi (3rd Batch)

Ms. Dorji Lhaden (4th Batch)

Mr. Pema Kota (4th Batch)

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