



# DE-SUUNG ZHABTOG

Official Newsletter of the Guardians



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Closing ceremony of DSP Peanut Processing and Production

The month-long De-suung Skilling Programme (DSP)

in Peanut Processing and Production, which started on October 7, 2022, concluded on November 8, 2022. The honorable Dasho Dzongdag of Trashi Yangtse awarded the certificates of completion to the 15 De-suups who were engaged in the training.

The DSP training was held at Doksum in Trashi Yangtse.



## Consecration of Wangduephodrang Dzong

Ten years after a fire razed it to the ground, the Wangduephodrang Dzong once again adorns the fabled hill, resembling the trunk of a sleeping elephant.

The historic Wangduephodrang Dzong, rebuilt to its former glory upon Royal Command, was consecrated on November 11, coinciding with the Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

The Tashi Rabney (consecration) of the Dzong was attended by His Majesty The King, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Her Majesty the Gyaltshen, Their Royal Highnesses Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel and Gyalsey Ugyen Wangchuck, and Members of the Royal Family.

His Holiness the Je Khenpo presided over the ceremony and the prayers, which began on November 9.

Tashi Ngasoel prayers were performed, and Mendel Ku, Sung, and Thukten Thinley were offered to His Majesty The King, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, and the Je Khenpo by representatives of the Dzongkhag at the Zhabdrung Tong-ku Lhakhang of the Dzong.

The ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister, Ministers, the Ambassador of India to Bhutan, and relevant government officials, as well as the people of Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

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## ABOUT THE GUARDIANS

On February 14, 2011, the De-suung Integrated Training Programme began in Tencholing, Wangdue Phodrang. De-suung, which means "Guardians of Peace," is a Royal Initiative of His Majesty The King.

His Majesty The King Commanded the establishment of De-suung in response to an overwhelming supplication from the youth for an opportunity to offer their voluntary service to the nation. Thus, De-suung was created as an avenue enabling those who wanted to volunteer their time and energy in service of the nation and people.

The Training Programme's foundation is based on the spirit of volunteerism and the positive influence of community service, integrity, and civic duty ethics and values.

De-suups actively volunteer during disasters, participate in social service activities, and offer service to others throughout their lives. In other words, as lifelong members of the De-suung Organization, trainees progressively improve their ability to bear their daily duties and responsibilities.

• Batches Trained

52

• Female Trained

12,395

• Male Trained

19,225

• Total Trained

31,620



## WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT:



## A TESTAMENT TO THE UNIQUE TIES BETWEEN BHUTAN AND INDIA

- ✓ The historic Wangduephodrang Dzong has served as the seat of the District Monk Body and the District Administration of Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag since 1638. One of the most important heritage sites in Bhutan, the Dzong, was damaged in a fire incident in June 2012. To restore the Dzong to its former glory, the reconstruction of Wangduephodrang Dzong was taken up as a Development Partnership Project between India and Bhutan in 2014.

The reconstruction project has incorporated disaster-resilient features for fire and earthquake safety without losing the essence of traditional construction techniques and cultural heritage values. The project was implemented by the Department of Culture in Bhutan.

Key parts of the project include rebuilding a three-story Kuenrey (lhakhang), a four-story Utse (central tower), Shab-khor (surrounding structure) in the 1st and 2nd courtyards, Du-Khang (lhakhang), and building a 50-meter-long service tunnel in both courtyards.

During the construction of the project, special efforts were made to maintain Bhutanese essence and architectural elements. A team of skilled local craftspeople worked hard to make murals that show the culture and traditions of Bhutan.

The Government of India is privileged to be a part of this important cultural heritage project. India has contributed 1 billion Ngultrums to the project. The project was completed much ahead of the projected completion date of June 2023. The press release from India in Bhutan (Embassy of India, Thimphu) says that the restoration of this historic Dzong to its former glory is a sign of the special relationship between Bhutan and India, which is based on mutual respect, trust, and friendship.

Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela attended the Tashi Rabney consecration ceremony of the reconstructed Wangduephodrang Dzong on November 11, 2022, in the presence of His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, the Je Khenpo, members of the Royal Family, Ministers, senior officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan, local administration, and the people of Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.



## PRAYER FLAGS HOISTED



To commemorate His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo's 67th Birth Anniversary, over 250 De-suups volunteered to hoist 2,011 Lungta and Cheyrinze prayer flags for His Majesty's good health and long life. The prayer flags were hoisted along the Buddha Dordenma Road. The initiative started on November 8, 2022, and ended on November 12, 2022.





## TRANS BHUTAN TRAIL

- ✓ On November 11, to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo, 24 De-suups along with 12 officials from the Ministry of Health walked 23.4 km of the Trans Bhutan Trail from Dochula to Punakha Dzong.



## DSP: INTRODUCTION TO CODING



- ✓ The De-suung Skilling Programme: Introduction to Coding for the 4th batch concluded on November 10, 2022. The one-month-long training programme was started on October 10, 2022, with 86 De-suups ( 62 males and 24 females) at the Yonphula Training Center in Trashigang.

The Dasho Dzongdag of Trashigang graced the closing ceremony with the eight instructors of the programme and the Officer in Charge (OIC).





## NYAMRO CHRONICLES



### *HIS MAJESTY THE KING: OUR LIVING GOD*

My name is Rada Wangmo, and I am 27 years old. I am from Wangduephodrang and the fourth daughter in my family. I was constantly on the hunt for new career opportunities. Fortunately, I was able to work at one of the resorts in Paro in 2019, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I lost my job, and I was at a loss as to what to do. After a protracted search, I was granted the chance to join the 45th batch.

Soon after, I began working on school responsibilities for more than a month, the water project at Haa Tsaphel for two months, the 200-bed quarantine duty at Samdrupjongkhar for two months, and finally the Red Building duty for four months. I was soon recruited into the De-suung Skilling Programme: Culinary Arts in Multi-Cuisine, where I learned and continue to learn a lot about cooking skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Majesty for his direction and protection, as well as for offering us the chance to serve our country. Thank you, Your Majesty, for all of your sacrifices and dedication. You are truly our living god, and we are eternally grateful for that.

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Thank you to the De-suups from Chhukha, De-suung Fire Service (DFS), De-suung Search and Rescue (SAR) Thimphu, and the Nangchoe De-suups for offering respect, prayers, and support to Zhung Dratshang.