



DE-SUUNG ZHABTOG

Official Newsletter of the Guardians

Issue 29 | December 9, 2022



DID YOU KNOW?

Closing of DSP in Contemporary Dance Theatre (CDT)

A month-long course in contemporary dance theater ended today. The closing program witnessed the presence of Hon'ble Kesang Chuki Dorjee, Domain Lead, officials from DSP, and the Liaison Officer.

Through the art of contemporary dance theater, which blends elements of multiple dance styles and lets dancers express emotionality through movements and breath, the De-suups who completed the course today showcased their performances at the Centenary Park today on "Gratitude" and "Dreams." The Hon'ble Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs, Lyonpo Ugyen Dorji witnessed the program.

Earlier at the closing ceremony, the trainer, Mrs. Charmi Chheda, said that CDT not only develops their dancing skills but also teaches them self-, body-, and mind management, builds confidence, and fosters assertiveness. She further added that there are now opportunities for the De-suups to open up and explore themselves better.

Hon'ble Kesang Chuki Dorjee congratulated the De-suups for their transformation and hoped the skills gained would help them, and she encouraged them to upskill.

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Tse Drup Ceremony at National Memorial Chorten

The ten-day Tse Drup ceremony began at the National Memorial Chorten in Thimphu on November 29, 2022, and concluded on December 8, 2022. The ceremony was presided over by His Holiness Kathok Situ Rinpoche, His Holiness Dungse Namgay Dawa Rinpoche, Trulku Ngawang Jigdre, and Trulku Tsepei Yangsi. Two of the Rinpoches bestowed Tsegug (the long life blessing) at 10 a.m. in the morning and 2:30 p.m. in the afternoon.

More than 80 monks of the Kathok Yoesel Samtenling monastery of Baylangdra in Wangduephodrang, which is the main seat of Kathok Situ Rinpoche, performed the prayers. The opening ceremony was graced by Her Royal Highness Ashi Pema Choden Wangchuck, accompanied by the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Dasho Tshering Wangchuk. At the National Memorial Chorten, the eighth Tse drup Chenmo (a practice for achieving life goals) also came to an end during the ceremony.

Thousands of devotees attended the ceremony to receive the Nguldrup Lawang-blessing. They also joined to offer Marmey Moelam and prayers for auspiciousness.

The closing ritual ceremony was graced by Her Royal Highness Ashi Pema Choden Wangchuck, Former Chief Justice Dasho Tshering Wangchuk, Lams, Members of Parliament, Honorable Rinzin Jamtsho, Honorable Tshering Chhoden, and patrons.

A total of 16 De-suups (10 females and 6 males) were deployed for the event.

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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

53

• Female Trained

12,844

• Male Trained

19,835

• Total Trained

32,679

YUNGICHHU HYDROPOWER PROJECT INAUGURATION



On December 7, 2022, the Yungichhu Hydro Power Project in Lhuentse celebrated its groundbreaking ceremony. The ceremony was presided over by the Chief Executive Officer of Druk Hydro Energy Limited (DHyE), with officials from the Dzongkhag Administration, De-suung Office, DHyE, RBA, BPC, DOR, and Gewog Administration also in attendance.

The project is carried out as a collaboration between Druk Hydro Energy Limited (DHyE) and the De-suung National Service initiative. At the peak of construction for Headworks' complex works, it is expected that roughly 80 De-suups will be engaged. The main goal of involving Desuups in the building of hydropower projects in Bhutan is to train, teach, and improve the skills of the community so that more Bhutanese can be involved in the building of future hydropower projects. The Yungichhu project will take around three years to complete. The generated electricity will not only meet local energy demand, but it will also improve grid stability and provide Lhuentse and other nearby Dzongkhags with self-sufficient supply flexibility. Furthermore, the development of small hydropower projects across the country is meant to boost grassroots economic activity, as well as provide jobs and civic involvement.

The Royal Government of Bhutan has allowed Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC) to proceed with the building of three small hydropower projects in the first phase of the effort to establish small hydropower projects around the country for energy security. One of the projects is the 32 MW Yungichhu hydropower plant in Lhuentse Dzongkhag's Maedtsho Gewog.

THIRD SAR REFRESHER COURSE TRAINING



The third Search and Rescue (SAR) Refresher Course for four Central Dzongkhags—Sarpang, Dagana, Tsirang, and Zhemgang—will start on December 18, 2022, and end on December 22, 2022. Four De-suups from each of the Dzongkhags who have undergone basic SAR training will participate in the training.

The training will take place at the Royal Bhutan Police Training Institute in Jiggling, Sarpang. It will be run by the Department of Disaster Management, which is part of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA).

Mountain rescue, water rescue, traveler's line, urban search and rescue, fire rescue, and other search and rescue topics will be taught as part of the training.

SAR Refresher Course till date:

1st batch: 14 SAR South West Dzongkhag De-suups

2nd batch: 13 SAR North West Dzongkhag De-suups

Total number of soldiers trained: 27 SAR De-suups

DSP - INTRODUCTION TO BARISTA & STARTING COFFEE BUSINESS



- ✓ De-suung Skilling Programme (DSP) in "Introduction to Barista and Starting Coffee Business" was launched on December 6, 2022, at the De-suung Café in Thimphu. 15 De-suups and Ms. Karma Dechen are participating in the upskilling program for one month. The expert trainer is Mr. Tu Vu from Vietnam. Mr. Tu Vu is the owner of Refined Café and Roastery and a certified roaster and taster of the Specialty Coffee Association of Vietnam.

Zimpon Wom Sonam Thinley (member of the DSP Steering Committee) was the Chief Guest during the opening ceremony. Lt. Colonel Sisir Chhetri (member of the DSP Steering Committee) was also present. The chief guest expressed heartfelt gratitude to the expert for agreeing to share his expertise and asked the trainees to extract the best skills from the trainer. Mr. Tu Vu (expert) gave an overview of the program and stated that skills in coffee brewing, creative drinks using local ingredients, operation, quality control, and business ideas would be taught.

CLOSING CEREMONY OF DSP BARTENDING



- ✓ The closing ceremony of the De-suung Skilling Programme (DSP) in bartending was held on December 10, 2022 in Paro. The event was graced by the DASHO DZONGDAG of Paro. A total of 7 De-suups (3 males and 4 females) received certificates of training completion during the ceremony.



STATE OF THE NATION '22



MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE GOES TO OUR DE-SUUPS.

With 52 batches so far and over 31,000 De-suups among us, the societal transformation His Majesty conceived through this voluntary institution will go down in the history of Bhutan.

What started as the volunteer-responders during disasters and emergencies is now at the centre of major national activities that anchor youth to meaningful projects.

It is a tale worth telling that from the success of over 5,000 De-suups, the accelerated programs during the peak of the pandemic saw over 30,000 young men and women coming forward to fight for the nation.

In droves they guarded the country from the disease. They continue to guard our frontiers. They became critical in the COVID-19 medicare support team, management of quarantine and isolation facilities, vaccination campaign, service delivery, and patrolling.

Under the banner of the De-suung National Service, the De-suups are undertaking major national projects. The De-suups were instrumental during the plantation of a million fruit trees throughout the country.

The De-suups have handled numerous drinking and irrigation water projects worth over Nu. 500 million. What started with small projects have now transformed into full-fledged legacy water projects like the one in Gelephu town. Thus, emphasis on designing robust water policy, developing water technology, and imparting appropriate knowledge on water resources management has become essential.

Similarly, the national dog population management project, the first of its kind, was successfully undertaken by the De-suups. I am happy to share that as a part of the program, recognising Chang-khyi as a native dog breed of Bhutan, is being pursued.

We have another group of De-suups working in road construction projects and they are making remarkable progress in standardising road works and professionalising the road sector.

And we see an increasing number of De-suups involved in the development of tourism products, beautification works, collecting important biometric data, and waste management to name a few.

It is difficult to spell out all the involvement, but it is safe to say that our communities are safer, cleaner and better because of the orange personnel among us.

We offer our gratitude and respect to His Majesty for infusing a sense of purpose among our youth and giving them relevance in our nation's progression.

**From the Prime Minister's Office
Quote 13 - SOTN '22**





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POP



The 53rd batch of the Accelerated De-suung Training Program concluded on December 11, 2022 in Wing I (Tendruk), Wing V (Tashichholing), Wing X (Deothang), and RBPTI (Jigmeling).

This batch of trainees comprises 610 males and 449 females (1059 total) who are unemployed youths with a minimum qualification of Class X.

The total number of De-suups in the country is now 32,679 (19,835 males and 12,844 females).