



DE-SUUNG ZHABTOG

Official Newsletter of the Guardians



DID YOU KNOW?

On June 3rd, 2023, a team of 150 trained Desuups began conducting the National Health Survey in 18 districts.

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On the special occasion of Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen's 33rd Birth Anniversary, the people all over Bhutan have offer our unwavering love, admiration, and gratitudes to our beloved Queen. The Desuung family extends warmest birthday wishes to Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen, Jetsun Pema Wangchuck—the epitome of grace, kindness, elegance, and beauty.

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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-suungs 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

57

56 still ongoing

• Female Trained

15,171

• Male Trained

22,126

• Total Trained

37,297

THE BHUTAN SOLAR INITIATIVE PROJECT



✓ On June 4th, 2023, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, the Bhutan Solar Initiative Project (BSIP) under His Majesty's Secretariat is commissioning the 250kW grid-tied roof-mounted solar PV Project at the Centenary Farmers Market (CFM) in Thimphu.

The project has been implemented under the Royal Command of His Majesty the King with the following objectives:

- Work towards the country's energy security needs.
- Demonstrate Bhutan's continued leadership in environmental conservation.
- Establish the technical and economic viability of solar PV in the country and pave the way for the uptake of solar PV by both private and public entities.
- Build local capacity in this growing and important sector.

The project is implemented with a Nu 16.5 million grant funding from the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTF). The final expenditure is expected to be around Nu 13.250 million, resulting in a cost per kilowatt of Nu 53,000/-, which is the most cost-effective in the country so far and also very competitive in the region.

The project was completed in six months, with implementation starting in December 2022 with the signing of the grant agreement. It is expected to generate about 365,730 units of electricity annually, which will be fed directly to the Bhutan Power Corporation (BPC) grid.

The project has been implemented by in-house Bhutanese engineers, along with 13 Desuups from DSP. An external expert has been engaged for a short duration for monitoring, testing, and quality assurance.

This project is the largest rooftop solar installation in the country to date

COMPLETION OF OMSHARI LANDMARK IRRIGATION PROJECT



On the joyous occasion of Her Royal Highness Azhi Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck's Birth Anniversary, the formal handing-over of the works was presided over by His Excellency, Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor as the Chief Guest and Mr. Prashant Kumar Das, Consul General of India, Phuentsholing; and the Local Government leaders. The project was financed by the Government of India through the Project Tied Assistance (PTA) Program.

The Construction of Omshari Landmark Irrigation Project in Pemathang Gewog, Samdrup Jongkhar was launched on 11th November, 2022 coinciding with the Birth Anniversary of Fourth Druk Gyalpo, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, marking a significant milestone for the irrigation sector in Bhutan. At a cost of Nu. 95 million, the project was completed and handed over to the beneficiaries and local governments.

In pursuit of His Majesty the King's vision for quality water infrastructures, the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock in partnership with De-suung National Service have executed the project. An average of 110 De-suups were engaged in the construction.

The Agriculture Engineering Division (AED) under the erstwhile Ministry of Agriculture & Forest, carried out the feasibility study, design and construction supervision of the new irrigation facilities, that are of climate resilient technologies including proper water intake structures; 7 km of 450 mm diameter HDPE main pipeline; 7 km of HDPE pipe distribution system, 8 km of concrete distribution canals and 3 drinking water reservoir tanks. To ease in the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of the mainline system, a relatively inexpensive and locally developed automation system that uses the Internet of Things (IoT) has been installed. Among other things, the automated system will aid the users in controlling the water flow remotely - during emergencies - using simple Messaging Apps such as Telegram and Whatsapp.

Pemathang Gewog is widely known for its Khamtey rice – a variety that is much sought after by many Bhutanese and is a primary source of cash income for many local farmers. However, the yield and production of Khamtey is currently constrained by irrigation water shortage during its critical growth stages i.e. September end – October. The existing water source – Warong-re is not able to meet both the agriculture and drinking water demands.

With the completion of the project a vast expanse of Chuzhing (paddy land) and Kamzhing (rainfed) measuring over 1000 acres will receive adequate irrigation water supply and is expected to boost rice and winter vegetable productions. Besides, it will also provide supplementary water supply for betel-nut (arecanut), cultivation and livestock farming. Water tapped from the new source, Raoshing-re will also reduce the demands on the existing one and serve as a source of clean drinking water for several villages. A total of 384 households will be benefited by the project.

The De-suung National Service completes 38 Water projects with completion of Om Shari project.



NYAMRO CHRONICLES



My mother used to say, 'My dream is to see my little daughter complete her degree and join De-suup.' To make her proud, after my studies, I joined the 48th de-suung integrated training program at MTC (Tencholing). "A society that does not protect its most vulnerable members is not a society". Therefore, after completing my training, I joined pandemic duty at Bajo. Ever since, I have grown passion with what I am doing in the orange uniform. I am committed to protect our beautiful nation, which was built by our ancestors through their struggles, wars, and sacrifices. They ensured that we could be here today because of their dedications and sacrifices. Now, I promise to uphold the De-suung honor code and strive to become the best version of myself.

Phub Lham
DS(48)22-26190



MEMORAL CHORTEN



32 Desuups are deployed at the Memorial Chorten to clean and chant 'moenlam.' As part of this process, they are offering 120,000 butter lamps to commemorate the auspicious month of Saga Dawa, praying for the well-being of all sentient beings, including our late De-suups who lost their lives. The tradition of 'monlem chenpo' and offerings of butter lamps will be continuing until the end of Saga Dawa.

Every morning, the 57th batch Desuups step forward to make 5,000 butter lamps per day. These butter lamps are offered in the honor of our late De-suup niamros.

FOREST FIRE AT LUNGTENPHU



On 1st June at 1:10 PM, a forest fire incident was reported in Lungtenphu. The fire rapidly spread through the forest area, necessitating immediate action. The response team, comprising 250 De-suup personnels, 55 Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) personnels, 201 Royal Bhutan Army (RBA) personnels, and 12 Forest Department personnels, promptly arrived at the scene.

Efforts were made to contain the fire and to prevent further spreading. The combined manpower effectively worked together to combat the forest fire, utilizing various firefighting techniques and equipments. Despite the challenging conditions, no casualties were reported during the incident.

Finally, around 5pm, the fire was successfully contained and brought under control.

Reginal Seed Centre



✓ The Regional Seed Centre, Samtelling, a dedicated team of 24 young De-suups from Sarpang Dzongkhag, along with officials from the Regional Seed Centre (RSC), have been working diligently to meet the increasing demand for seedlings in 16 Dzongkhags. This collaborative effort aims to ensure an adequate supply of high-quality seedlings for various agricultural and environmental initiatives across the region.