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**Bhutan Youth Development Fund**

President: Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Tseyring Pem Wangchuck

## Highlights of 2018

### 1. Park adoption by Y-VIA ( Young Volunteers in Action)

YDF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Thimphu City Corporation to adopt the park (next to YDF campus below Changangkha Lhakhang). The park area is one of the few untouched marshy lands left in Thimphu town, with a rich natural habitat. YDF will use the park for its eco-friendly and green initiatives and it will be a hotspot to educate young people about the rich environmental habitat of the area.



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## 2. YDF Fundraising - NAZ FEST concert

A two day fundraising concert was organized on 19th and 20th January 2018 at YDF hall. Jurmey Choden and Kelden Lhamo, students of Royal Thimphu College, with guidance and support from the Fundraising Unit, organized the charity event titled 'Nazhoen Rigtoeb Fest' as a part of their responsibility to give back to the society. An amount of Nu. 63,334 was raised for the 'Drug Education & Rehabilitation Program' of YDF.



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### **3. The young volunteers in action participates in annual monlam in Bodhgaya, India**

The Bhutan Youth Development Fund along with the young volunteers offered prayers and gratitude to His Holiness Gyalwang Karmapa Rinpoche and Kagyu Monlam International Trust. YDF team got a wonderful opportunity to render voluntary services and be part of Monlam Chenmo 2018.



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#### **4. Outspreading partnership with tour operators**

With the new Institute of Wellbeing and My Gakidh Village project, YDF is looking forward to a concrete partnership and support from the local tour operators in the fields of eco-tourism, rural-homestays, and livelihood empowerment programs. Discussions and presentations on tourism related projects of YDF were shared to the floor.



#### **5. YDF paves a better future for under-privileged students**

Six students from economically challenged background have been awarded with Gyalyum Tseyring Pem Wangchuck-Higher Education scholarship to pursue their higher studies (Class XI & XII) in 2 private boarding schools - Losel Gyatsho Academy in Gelephu and Sonam Kuenphen Higher Secondary School in Bumthang.



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## 6. UWC scholarship

This year YDF have sent five students to the various United World Colleges across the world. Last year's Golden Youth Award Camp winner Mr. Wangdrak Dorji from Dr. Tobgyel School is on full scholarship and has joined UWC South East Asia, Singapore.

In addition, we have also sent two of our students on full scholarship Ms. Tshering Dema and Ms. Sonam Lhazin in UWC Maastricht, Netherlands and Mahindra UWC, India respectively. The remaining two-scholarship candidate were sent on partial/placement scholarships in India and Armenia. As for this year's Golden Youth Award Camp, the winner Ms. Kinley Yangden from Druk School will be attending one of the United World Colleges next year.



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## 7. YDF's 45<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Tseyring Pem Wangchuck, the President of YDF, and Her Royal Highness Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck, the Vice President, graced YDF's 45th Management Board Meeting.

Her Majesty opened the meeting by thanking the YDF board members for their continued unwavering support and hoped it would remain so for many years to come.



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### 8. YDF celebrates its 19<sup>th</sup> foundation day in greener way

This year's 19th Foundation Day, was observed by planting tree saplings at Sang Chokorling area in Paro. 700 tree saplings were planted at Sang Chokorling hill, where the recent forest fire had caused irreparable damage. At the same time, Y-VIA members in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag planted Maple and pine trees around the school campus. The tree saplings are being planted to support Bhutan's Unique environmental conservation effort through our project called "Sponsor a Tree."



Sponsor a Tree Video Link

<https://www.facebook.com/250foryouth/videos/1692936347461857/>

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## 9. 11<sup>th</sup> Golden Youth Award

YDF observed its 11<sup>th</sup> Golden youth award camp from 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in capital. 80 participants from all over the country participated in the camp. They were the brightest students of class 10 from their Dzongkhags who were selected through series of selection interviews both at school and Dzongkhag level. Prior to the actual camp, the participants attended three days GNH values workshop in Bhutan Institute of wellbeing at Chimithangkha.

As for this year's Golden Youth Award Camp, the winner Ms. Kinley Yangden from Druk School, will be attending one of the United World Colleges next year.



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### 10. Fund raising concert

Fundraising unit organized a major charity concert on 28 July 2018 and raised a net profit of Nu 800,000. Artists from India along with our Bhutanese bands performed during the event to raise funds for many programs of YDF. The funds were secured from the sale of tickets and donations from corporations and private establishments.



### 11. Revival of the Highland textiles and souvenir

The youth volunteers in Laya Central School have come together to revive its unique conical hat called Belo, traditional black skirt woven from yak wool and highland textiles in school.

More than 20 youth volunteers (Y-VIAs) and teachers were involved in learning how to weave cone shaped hat, traditional skirts and in making souvenirs from local textiles. Laya School is one of the most visited places by the tourist and trekkers in Bhutan. The project aims to sell the products to the visitors and at the same time promote its rich cultural textiles. The volunteers also held an exhibition during the Third Royal Highlanders Festival in October.



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## 12. My Gakidh Village climbs another milestone in its history

On 16th August 2018, My Gakidh Village team signed MoU with the Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO) which is expected to promote the Eco-tourism enterprises in the community. Eco-tourism ventures are now fully operational to cater services like home stays, hiking, nature guiding etc. However, the challenges that existed in quest for appropriate platform to promote and market such services would now be addressed through the ABTO's official web portal namely [www.communitytourism.bt](http://www.communitytourism.bt). According to the MoU guidelines, the promotion and advocacy is not, only limited to home stays information; rather promotion of associated eco-tourism services would also be made through the website.



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### 13. Young Volunteers gets trained in Child Protection and Participation

Y-VIA members took part in four days of training on child protection and participation with the aim to built capacity in young people in responding and preventing violence against children. The training mainly focused on building solid foundation in conceptual understanding of child rights, child protection, children's participation and violence. Also, preparing young people through the provision of skills and methods to help themselves keep safe, conduct themselves responsibly, seeking support from adults, supporting each other and acting as key partners in an initiative to end violence against children were some of the agendas that the training covered within four days. Participants pledged to share whatever they have learned through small projects to end protection issues prevailing in their schools and community.



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### 14. Expansion of Young Volunteers in Action network

YDF officially expanded the youth network "Young Volunteers in Action" with support of UNICEF from 24 - 26 October 2018. More than 40 young people participated in the program including monks and nun from relevant monastic body. Participants learned about the principles and techniques of effective advocacy campaign and being safe online.



### 15. Y-VIA opens a saving account

Bhutan's largest Youth Volunteer Network, Y-VIA is now going for Youth Ethic Banking to enhance youth financial literacy in the country by encouraging ethical activities in schools. The Executive Director of YDF attended the YE Banking incentive Program in Arekha Middle Secondary School, Chukha organized by the Financial Inclusion Secretariat, Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.



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This idea was suggested by Tshering Yangchen, a former class VI student of Jigme Losel Primary School during the "Global Money Week" celebration in 2016.



### 16. My Gakidh Village Participating in the second Cottage and Small Industries Fair at Changlingmithang.



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## 17. Strategic Plan for Institute of Wellbeing

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2018, The Bhutan Institute of Wellbeing conducted a stakeholders meeting at Tshaluna. The goal of the meeting was to share the key outcomes of the strategic plan and identify areas of collaboration and focal persons with each organization. The strategic plan is not a final outcome, in fact it is the starting point for identifying and enhancing areas of collaboration with BIW's stakeholders. Furthermore, the strategy is not cast in stone and should be review every so now and often.

It has been 1 year since the rehabilitation shifted from Serbithang to the new location in Tshalune, Chimi Tankha. The BIW is more than a treatment and rehabilitation centre and in a short time span, the following milestones have been accomplished.



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### 18. YDF Retreat

YDF had its annual retreat for 4 days in Nazheon Pelri Youth hostel, Phuentsholing from 27th till 30th of November. A Total of 25 people participated in the annual retreat; 21 from Secretariat office and 4 from the Bhutan Institute of Wellbeing. The annual retreat gave an opportunity for YDF to review and reflect on its programs, achievements, challenges faced and at the same time, detailed planning for 2019 was done for better output.



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## 19. While(in)g Vacation for Youth age of 7-24 starts

YDF is organizing its annual winter camp program named “While (in)g Vacation in the country. The program will be offering wide ranges of activities like reading, arts and crafts, forum theatre, dance, hospitality, nature guided and life skills training programs. The event is being held in two dzongkhags (Thimphu and Gelephu) with more than 250 children taking part in the 3-week long program.



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### 20. Efficient Waste Collection in the country

YDF's Waste Paper Recycling Project (Social Enterprise) procures a waste collection van and 50 numbers of bins to ease the collection of waste papers within the country. With this, the unit is expected to increase the waste paper collection and its production of egg trays, and ensure timely delivery of finished products. Through the project, we have reduced import of egg trays by 50% in the country and provided employment opportunities for 15 recovering youth and 10 non-user.



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