

'Zero Waste festivals' in Samdrup Jongkhar



Tshewang Penjor

S/Jongkhar: Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative (SJI) has developed a Zero Waste module to address the increasing waste issues by encouraging responsible and sustainable waste management practices.

SJI Zero Waste Coordinator Pia Lindstrom said that the Zero Waste training manual was specifically developed to suit the Bhutanese context.

Further, the module can also be used in the community meetings as well as training of institutions, ranging from schools, hospitals, government offices, to military institutions and religious bodies.

The aim of the SJI Zero Waste project is to foster eco-friendly development efforts and support the environmental preservation pillar of GNH through design and implementation of Zero Waste strategies in Samdrup Jongkhar dzongkhag.

On a practical level, the intention is that wastes, especially plastic, should be minimized, and that segregation of waste should be implemented both at the household and the institutional levels.

According to Pia Lindstrom, Dewathang has been selected as the pilot urban village, and Wooling as the pilot rural village. The idea is to use these pilot projects as testing grounds to establish model villages.

If the initiatives in Dewathang and Wooling prove successful, Zero Waste activities will start in other selected villages in Samdrup Jongkhar dzongkhag. Other dzongkhags can also emulate

in order to help realize GNH in practice.

The SJI Zero Waste Coordinator said awareness of waste segregation among people has increased in number. However, Pia Lindstrom said that implementing such a project would take time. Citing Wooling village as an example, comprising of cohesive group, she said it's easier working with them.

The executive director of SJI, Tshewang Dendup, said Dewathang Primary School and Jigmi Namgyel Polytechnic (JNP) have already started implementing the initiatives. For instance, JNP Waste Disposal Club has initiated waste collection and recycling activities primarily covering their campus areas.

According to him, SJI is using their capacity to further build upon the already existing initiatives in zero waste management, as well as encouraging and supporting new ones.

Institutional and human capacity development for promoting and facilitating responsible and sustainable management of waste is one of the main activities drawn in the Zero Waste project.

Similarly, Zero Waste in the pilot villages will be responsible for giving workshops on sustainable waste management practices and creating awareness on related issues to communities and institutions.

Developing awareness among the villagers on waste minimization and segregation is another foremost activity incorporated in the Zero Waste project, which is being carried out through "Zero Waste festivals" in Dewathang and Wooling. Besides, youth

workshop on recycled art and craft was held in Dewathang. Zero Waste trainers also held workshops at schools and other institutions in the pilot villages.

Like other SJI activities, the SJI Zero Waste Project is consistently carried out in close collaboration with key stakeholders in order to ensure ownership and relevance. The SJI Zero Waste project is initially started on small scale and low-cost model actions in select villages.

Meantime, not only will the Zero Waste manual be

accessible in SJI web page but a dzongkha version of the manual will be made available from next week, according to the SJI executive director.

Meanwhile, the SJI is a project under the umbrella of the Lhomon Society (LMS), which was registered as a Civil Society Organization (CSO) on February 7, 2012. LMS is Bhutan's first major civil society-based development project designed to foster GNH-based development in harmony with government goals.

Initiated by Dzongsar

Khyentse Rinpoche in March 2010 as a potential model for the country, its purpose is to raise living standards in Samdrup Jongkhar district and beyond in an ecologically friendly way, and to establish food security and self sufficiency, while fully protecting and enhancing that natural environment, strengthening communities, promoting Bhutan's unique culture, stemming the rural-urban migration tide, and fostering a cooperative, productive, entrepreneurial, and self-reliant spirit.



MINISTRY OF WORKS & HUMAN SETTLEMENT POLICY & PLANNING DIVISION (PPD)

MoWHS/BUDPII/C1/MF Consultant/3557

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR STRENGTHENING
MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)

BHUTAN SECOND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (BUDPII)

(Urban Development Sector)

CONSULTING SERVICES

Credit No. 4744-BT

Project ID No. P090157

The Royal Government of Bhutan has secured an IDA credit of **US\$12 million** towards the **Bhutan Second Urban Development Project (BUDPII)** to (a) **strengthen municipal management systems starting in Thimphu and Phuentsholing Thromdes (Municipalities)** and (b) **improve infrastructure services in northern Thimphu.**

The Project now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the required services. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out, in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA credits by World Bank Borrowers (May 2004 as amended October 2006).

Interested consultancy firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consulting firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Interested consultancy firms may obtain further information about the assignment from website given below. The expression of interest must be delivered by hand/post/email to the address below by **3.30 PM, BST on July 1, 2013.**

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