



འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་མཐའ་འཁོར་དང་ཉམས་སྲུང་སྤེལ་ཁང་།

Royal Government of Bhutan

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Department of Forests and Park Services

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment



Seminar On Sustainable Development Goals

Report



Submitted by:
Dawa Yoezer,
Researcher,

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment,
Lamai Goempa, Bumthang.

Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals
9th November, 2015, Daphne Hall

A five member Finnish delegates led by Her Excellency Tarja Halonen, Former President of Finland and CEO WWF-Finland were in Bhutan from 5th to 13th November to celebrate the 60th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

On 9th November the honourable President and her entourage were in Bumthang and participated in a seminar and gave talk to diverse group of people from Bumthang on Sustainable Development. The seminar is solicited by WWF-Bhutan and facilitated by UWICE, Lamai Goempa, Bumthang.

Proceedings of the Seminar

The Chief of Research and Education of UWICE welcomed the honourable former President of Finland and her entourage, guests and participants for the Sustainable Development Goal seminar. He also expressed gratitude to honourable president and her team for supporting biodiversity conservation efforts in Bhutan. With this, the seminar on Sustainable development Goals was formally commenced as one of the events for celebrating the fourth king, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck's 60th anniversary.

Presentation Topic

I. Sustainable Development Goals and their links with GNH approach:

Honorable Formal President, Finland.

The presentation was emphasized on some of the following important points.

- Seminars and conferences on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at various levels of audience were felt very imperative to ensure sustainability of global resources for future generation within global community. Implementation of SDG through GNH paradigm in Bhutan has felt as a key strategic process for sustainable development around the globe.
- The president expressed that although SDGs are complex and difficult to achieve, if implemented it will immensely benefit in reducing poverty and ensure social, economic and environmental developments. She also emphasized on healthy environment and mitigation of climate change is a key factor in achieving SDGs.
- The president informed the house that modern developments have lead to over consumption of natural resources which have direct negative impacts on global socio-economic. She also highlighted to explore in using the social and human capital rather than natural resources. WWF and other environmental NGOs in Bhutan should play a key role in implementing the SDGs in Himalayan region was the conclusion remark in her presentation.

II. Integrating Sustainable Development Goals into their higher education:

CEO WWF Finland, Liisa Rohweder, PhD, and Secretary General.

- The presentation revolved around the integration of nature, society, culture and attitude for achieving SDGs. A huge transformational change in an individual's

action and living life style was felt very important for every global citizen. Conservation and protection of environment was another important element in achieving SDGs. It was noted that 52% of biodiversity has been lost in 40 years around the globe. However, the presenter was doubtful that whether the current SDG's concept would be really a sustainable model without compromising for future generations.

- The CEO also highlighted on value education for youths and critical reflection for learning in the society. Motivation building and partnership has also been a key role in achieving SDGs. Finally she concluded that country like Bhutan who is doing very well in implementing SDG should express in loud to ensure global transformational changes in sustainable development.

III. Sustainable Development Goals and Natural Capital, Drivers of Economic Capital in Bhutan:

Mr. Sangay Wangchuk, UWICE.

The presentation demonstrated an overall view of how Bhutan is implementing the SDG and also shed light on some of the ongoing research activities related to SDG at UWICE. He mentioned that Bhutan contributes US \$ 15.5 B worth of environmental ecosystem services (Ecosystem Service Journal, 2013) to other countries. In this context, Bhutan is actually a donor country in terms of ecosystem services. Apart from Bhutan being home to several endangered species, Bhutan also committed to become a carbon neutral country on the planet. He further states that Bhutan contributes in survival of one third of the world's population by protecting glacier lakes and entire Bramaputra river system which originate its sources from glacier mountains of Bhutan. Finally, he concluded that Bhutan has a huge potential to benefit rest of the countries from sustainable development of environmental biodiversities through GNH that contributes in well being of entire global citizens through ecosystem services rather than a onetime exploration of environmental resources to benefit Bhutanese citizens.

Panel Discussions

During the panel discussion session, various questions were raised to the panelist for discussion.

Some participants raised a concern on how sustainable will it be for Bhutan to have rampant hydropower projects in the country? And why Bhutan is not able to extract solar energy as a viable alternative energy for the country? One of the National participants also raised that Bhutan have strong conservation policy implemented in the country, however, our farmers in the rural area lose their crops and livestock for the sake of conservation through human wildlife conflict?

Clips from the Seminar



Photo Note: (Top- down) Seminar banner, Panelist, participants and visit to Forests Expo.

Closing of Seminar

The seminar was ended with closing remarks by Vijay Moktan, Conservation Director, WWF-Bhutan Program. He highlighted the importance of Sustainable development and associated issues before thanking the Honorable former president of Finland and her delegates for visiting Bhutan to promote sustainable development goals and also strongly supporting the Bhutan's environmental conservation efforts. He also expressed gratitude to all the presenters for enlightening the participants on SDG and also sharing on how SDG's are being integrated and implemented around the globe. He also thanked all the participants for attending the seminar and also requested them to think over ecosystem services and natural capital as one of the important assets for the achieving sustainable developments for Bhutanese society.

AGENDA FOR THE SEMINAR

Time (Hrs)	Program	Remarks
09:00-09:30	Arrival of participants and participants seated	UWICE
09:30-09:50	Arrival of Delegates, informal introduction with the participants	WWF/UWICE
09:50-10:00	Welcome address	CRE, UWICE
10:00-10:45	Talk on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their links with GNH Approach	Hon'ble President
10:45-11:00	TEA BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO	
11:00-11:20	Integrating sustainable development into higher education	CEO WWF Finland
11:40-12:00	Sustainable Development Goals and Natural Capital, drivers of economic growth in Bhutan	Mr. Sangay Wangchuk, UWICE
12:00-12:45	Panel Discussion, facilitated by Nawang Norbu, Director of UWICE	Panelist (Hon'ble President, CEO, Anne, Sherub, Sangay Wangchuk)
12:45-13:00	Closing of the Seminar	Conservation Director, WWF-Bhutan
13:00-14:00	LUNCH AND DEPART	

Participants

1. Programme Director, RNR-RDC-Jakar, Bumthang
2. Regional Director, Regional Revenue and Customs, Bumthang
3. Program Director, National Feed and Fodder Development Programme, Bumthang
4. Manager, National Horse and Brown Swiss Cross Breeding Center, Bumthang
5. CFO, Divisional Forest Office, Bumthang
6. CFO, Wangchuck Centennial National Park, Bumthang
7. CFO, Phrumshingla National Park, Ura, Bumthang
8. In-charge, Veterinary Hospital, Bumthang
9. Asst. Regulatory and Quarantine Officer, BAFRA, Bumthang
10. Dz. Planning Officer, Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration
11. Dz. Agriculture Officer, Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration
12. Dz. Health Officer, Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration
13. Dz. Livestock Officer, Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration
14. Dz. Engineer, Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration
15. Dz. Forests Officer, Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration
16. Dz. Environment Officer, Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration
17. Dz. Statistical Officer, Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration
18. Dz. Coordinator Officer, DPT, Bumthang
19. Dz. Coordinator Officer, PDP, Bumthang
20. Manager, Bank of Bhutan Ltd., Bumthang
21. Manager, Bhutan National Bank, Bumthang
22. In-charge, Druk Seed Corporation, Bumthang
23. Manager, Food Corporation of Bhutan, Bumthang
24. Manager, Mountain Hazelnut Venture Ltd., Bumthang
25. Regional Manager, Natural Resources Development Corporation Ltd., Bumthang
26. Branch Manager, Handicraft Emporium, Bumthang
27. Manager, Youth Development Fund, Bumthang
28. Chairman, Bee Keeping Association of Bumthang, Bumthang
29. Chairman, Hotel Association of Bumthang, Bumthang
30. Gewog Administration Officer, Chokhor Gewog Administration, Bumthang
31. Gewog Administration Officer, Chumey Gewog Administration, Bumthang
32. Principal, Jakar Autonomous School, to participate/nominate focal teacher and 4 students
33. Principal, Technical Training Institute, Chumey, to participate/nominate focal teacher and 4 students
34. Principal, Wangdecholing Lower Secondary School, to participate/nominate focal teacher and 4 students